

Report to: **Standards Committee**



Date of Meeting 9 April 2026

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

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## **Standards Committee Work Programme**

### **Report summary:**

To note progress in relation to the Committee's Work Programme for 2025/26

### **Is the proposed decision in accordance with:**

Budget Yes  No

Policy Framework Yes  No

### **Recommendation:**

To note progress in relation to the Work Programme for 2025/2026.

### **Reason for recommendation:**

To ensure that the Committee has a robust work programme in place and can monitor activity against that Work Programme at each meeting.

Officer: Melanie Wellman, Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer, email [melanie.wellman@eastdevon.gov.uk](mailto:melanie.wellman@eastdevon.gov.uk)

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Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- Climate Action and Emergency Response
- Coast, Country and Environment
- Council and Corporate Co-ordination
- Democracy, Transparency and Communications
- Economy and Assets
- Finance
- Strategic Planning
- Sustainable Homes and Communities
- Tourism, Sports, Leisure and Culture

**Equalities impact** Low Impact

**Climate change** Low Impact

**Risk:** Low Risk; Agreeing a Work Programme for the Committee will ensure that important issues are not overlooked and that the Committee can monitor progress against that work programme.

**Links to background information** None

**Link to [Council Plan](#)**

Priorities (check which apply)

- Better homes and communities for all
- A greener East Devon
- A resilient economy

## Purpose of Report

1. The following table sets out the Work Programme as agreed by the Committee for 2025/26. The Committee are invited to note progress against the agreed work programme.

Description	Timetable	Responsible Officer	Comments
Annual Report from the Chair of the Committee regarding the work of the Committee	April 2026	Chair/Monitoring Officer	On this agenda.
Promote ethical standards by providing support and training in relation to the Code of Conduct to District Councillors , Parish Clerks and Councillors (as required);	<p>Training provided to District Councillors in May/June 2023</p> <p>Training provided to Town and Parish Councils in September and November 2023 (including District Councillors)</p> <p>Further training to be provided in 2026.</p>	Monitoring Officer	Training provided to District Councillors on 23 October 2025. A further session to be arranged in the first half of 2026. Training also to be offered to Towns and Parishes in the first half of 2026. A dedicated session provided to one Parish Council in March 2026.
Receive conduct of hearings training	To be agreed if required	Monitoring Officer	Will be provided if a hearing is required.
Continue to investigate ways of resolving issues before they escalate to a formal complaint	Report as required – presentation from early 2025 to be presented to any new members of the Committee as part of induction	Monitoring Officer	2025 report to form part of the induction to new co-opted members. That training has taken place.
Promote ethical standards by engaging via the Chair of the Committee on a regular basis with the political leaders and Chief Executive of the Council	Twice a year	Chair	Ongoing.

Receive updates regarding Code of Conduct complaints	Every meeting	Monitoring Officer	On this agenda.
Hear Standards complaints where an investigation has concluded there has been a breach of the Code and the Monitoring Officer refers the matter for hearing	As required	Monitoring Officer Sub-Committee of Standards Committee	As required (none to date in 2025/26)
Consider dispensation applications	When applications received	Monitoring Officer	Applications considered at the last meeting for Local Government Reorganisation. No applications received since.
Conduct a review of the Code of Conduct	Reviewed July 2025	Monitoring Officer	Complete
Consider draft Gifts and Hospitality Protocol for Members	July 2025	Monitoring Officer	Complete
Consider changes to the procedures for dealing with Officer Declaration of Personal Interests	November 2025	Monitoring Officer	To move to 2 July 2026 due to officers still working on this.
Receive an update on Standards issues	Every meeting	Monitoring Officer	Update on outcome of Government consultation provided at last meeting. No further updates received. Committee considered standards cases after last Committee meeting and that discussion will be completed following this meeting.
To receive regular updates on the gifts and hospitality accepted or refused by members and officers	July 2025 and January 2026	Monitoring Officer	Update provided on 20 November 2025. Next update will be provided as part of 2026/27 work programme.
To review Protocols relating to standards and behaviour	To be agreed	Monitoring Officer	Changes to Member/Officer Protocol and new

			Gifts and Hospitality Protocol now agreed by Full Council. Training provided to members on both documents. Training to be provided to officers on Member/Officer Protocol.
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**Financial implications:**

There are no financial implications to be added to this report.

**Legal implications:**

There are no substantive legal issues to be added to this report.