

Report to: Standards Committee

Date of Meeting 2 July 2026

Heading/Title: Standards Committee Work Programme

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr John Loudoun

Director/Assistant Director: Melanie Wellman, Director of Governance

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Key decision No

If a Key Decision has it appeared on Forward Plan

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

1. Background

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to agree the Work Programme for 2026/27.
- 1.2 The following table sets out the proposed Work Programme for the Standards Committee for 2024/25. The Committee are invited to consider the draft and make any changes that they see fit.

Description	Timetable	Responsible Officer	Comments
Annual Report from the Chair of the Committee regarding the work of the Committee	April 2027	Chair/Monitoring Officer	
Promote ethical standards by providing support and training in relation to the Code of Conduct to District Councillors , Parish Clerks and Councillors (as required);	Training provided to District Councillors in May/June 2023 and Dec 2025. Training provided to Town and Parish Councils in	Monitoring Officer	

	September and November 2023 (including District Councillors) and further session to take place in July 2026.		
Receive conduct of hearings training	To be agreed if required	Monitoring Officer	
Continue to investigate ways of resolving issues before they escalate to a formal complaint	Report as required – presentation from early 2025 presented to new members of the Committee as part of induction	Monitoring Officer	
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	
Receive updates regarding Code of Conduct complaints	Every meeting	Monitoring Officer/Deputy Monitoring Officer	
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	
Consider dispensation applications	When applications received	Monitoring Officer	
Conduct a review of the Code of Conduct	October 2026	Monitoring Officer	
Review procedures for dealing with Officer Declaration	October 2026	Monitoring Officer	

of Personal Interests			
Receive an update on Standards issues	Every meeting	Monitoring Officer	
To receive regular updates on the gifts and hospitality accepted or refused by members and officers	October 2026	Monitoring Officer	
To review Protocols relating to standards and behaviour	To be agreed	Monitoring Officer	
Updates on emerging best practice	As required	Monitoring Officer	
Updates on standards cases from elsewhere	Following every meeting	Monitoring Officer/Deputy Monitoring Officer	

2. Recommendations/Decision

- 2.1 To approve the Work Programme for 2026/2027 with or without amendments.

3. Reasons for Recommendations/Decision

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

4. Options

- 4.1 To approve the Work Programme with or without amendments or not to approve the Work Programme.

5. Relevance to Council Plan/priorities

Set out how report links to the Council Plan/priorities:

- A supported and engaged community that has the right homes in the right places, with appropriate infrastructure
- A sustainable environment that is moving towards carbon neutrality and which promotes ecological recovery.
- A vibrant and resilient economy that supports local business, provides local jobs and leads to a reduction in poverty and inequality.

- A well-managed, financially secure and continuously improving council that delivers quality services

Ensures the Council has good procedures in place for promoting ethical governance.

6. Financial Comments/Implications

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

7. Legal Comments/Implications

7.1 There are no substantive legal implications to be added to this report.

8. Risk Implications

Please complete the risk table – further guidance available on the [Intranet](#)

8.1 It is important that the Committee has a robust Work Programme in place, to ensure that ethical standards issue are being managed effectively.

Activity/ plant/ materials etc	List significant hazards	People at risk	Assessment of Risk			Existing controls e.g. Safety procedures	Residual Risk			What further action Is required to control/mitigate the risk?
			*Imp act 1-4	*Like li hood 1-4	Risk Score		Impa ct 1- 4	Lik eli hood 1-4	Ri s k S c o r e	
Ensure that the Committ ee is promotin g and maintain ing ethical standard s	Members not being appropria tely trained, policies not being updated, committe e not being updated on Code of Conduct complaint s	Those using the services of District and Town/Paris h Councils in East Devon. The reputation of individual Councils.	3	2	6	Work Programm e and regular reporting on progress with that Work Programm e	1	2	2	Ensure the Committee regularly review the ris table.

*Impact – Major = 4 Serious = 3 Significant = 2 Minor = 1
 *Likelihood – Very Likely = 4 Likely = 3 Unlikely = 2 Remote = 1

9. Equality Implications (Public Sector Equality Duty)

Scope (<i>Provide an overview, including objectives and desired outcomes</i>)	To ensure no equality implications arising from the proposals in the report.
Evidence gathered and engagement (<i>List stakeholders consulted and relevant processes, policies, and data sources</i>)	The Work Programme.
Relevance assessment findings (<i>If relevant to equality, undertake a full EIA or If no relevance to equality, explain why with supporting information</i>)	<p>A full EIA is required: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, this assessment has demonstrated relevance to equality with regard to: Please check relevant boxes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Age <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy and maternity <input type="checkbox"/> Disability <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation <input type="checkbox"/> Race <input type="checkbox"/> Gender reassignment <input type="checkbox"/> Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage or Civil Partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Religion or Belief <input type="checkbox"/> Armed Forces <input type="checkbox"/> Other, e.g. carers, care leavers, low income, rurality/isolation, etc.</p> <p>If no, explain why:</p> <p>There are no equality implications arising from the work programme.</p>
Relevance ranking	<input type="checkbox"/> High – Very relevant to protected characteristics <input type="checkbox"/> Medium – Somewhat relevant to protected characteristics <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low – Not relevant to protected characteristics
Key findings and impacts	None. Work Programme only
Conclusion drawn (<i>i.e No major changes needed; EIA found no negative impact or adjust policy/process to remove identified barriers</i>)	No negative impact
Actions (<i>Proposed actions to mitigate negative impacts on identified groups</i>)	N/A
Signed off by	Melanie Wellman, Director of Governance

10. HR and Workforce Implications

10.1 There are none.

11. Community Safety Implications (Crime and Disorder)

11.1 There are none.

12. Climate Change Implications

12.1 There are none.

13. Health & Safety and Health & Wellbeing Implications

13.1 There are none.

14. Procurement and Social Value implications

14.1 There are none.

15. Land and Buildings (non-housing)/Asset Management Implications

15.1 There are none.

16. Overview and Scrutiny Committees Comments/Recommendations

16.1 Not applicable.

17. Digital and Data

17.1 There are none.

18. Consultation and Engagement

18.1 There are none.

19. Communications

19.1 There are none.

20. Next Steps

20.1 For the Committee to regularly review implementation of the Work Programme.

21. Appendices

21.1 There are none.

22. Background Papers

22.1 None.