

Standards Committee Work Programme 2012

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Encourage Members and Officers to put high ethical standards at the heart of their work; □ □ Promote current high standards of professionalism and make high ethical standards central to the objectives, behaviours and culture of the Authority and encourage proactive leadership of these themes by members and officers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ To continue using the 'tag line' decided by the Standards Committee will be added to all strategic documents issued by the Council. A suggested 'tag line' is 'Torbay Council recognises the importance of high standards of conduct and ethics from its politicians and officers. The Council strives to ensure that its politicians and officers maintain these standards when representing the Council and the people of Torbay' □ Continue monitoring and feedback reporting on member meetings especially for feedback for new Councillors □ The programme for the Council's meetings over the coming year will be provided to each of the independent members of the Standards Committee. The independent members are asked to let Lisa Warrillow know as soon as possible either what meetings they are likely to be available for or what meetings they are definitely not available. Lisa will then produce a list of meetings to be monitored and the independent members who will be asked to attend those meetings. No independent member will be expected to attend more than 3 meetings over the course of the year. The total number of meetings to be attended by independent members will be as follows:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Planning – 3 out of 12 ○ Licensing – 1 out of 3 'full meetings' and 2 meetings of its sub-committees ○ Overview and Scrutiny – 3 out of 12 ○ Full Council – 3 out of 7 ○ Brixham Town Council - 2 or 3 meetings over the course of the year ○ Harbour Committee – 1 meeting <p>If particular problems are identified or concerns are raised by any person at any meetings independent members may be asked to attend the immediately subsequent meetings if considered necessary. It is intended that all reports from independent members will be released to the press whether requested or not. The names of the independent members who completed the reports will be removed from them before they are released.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Focus on conduct of new councillors to assist with feedback 						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Increasing Trust in Local Democracy; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Anthony Butler to report to Standards Committee on progress of national and Devon wide codes of conduct □ Ensure code of conduct training is carried out and attend meetings in particular those chaired by new councillors 						

- Anthony Butler and Chairman of Standards to work with others to develop local code
- Standards Committee meetings – ask political group representatives to highlight options and obtain feedback from members of their groups on a voluntary code
- Suggest to members that they sign acceptance of any voluntary code
- Consider future structure of Standards Committee with regards to overseeing conduct.
- Identify the need to monitor ethical standards post April 2012
- **Encourage the publication of internal and external communications which promote the value of high ethical standards,**
 - Independent members reports on meetings will be released to the press and to the elected members of the Council
 - Further articles will be provided for inclusion in 'The Info' promoting the work that the Standards Committee undertakes
 - Press release on what we're doing for the voluntary code
 - Keep the local community informed of any possible ethical standards structure and framework that will be put in place post April 2012