

Question and Answer Session – Leader of the Council, and Chief Executive

Standards Committee

Date: 27th January 2014

Author:	Director of Law and Democratic Services
Wards:	All
Locality Affected:	All
Parishes Affected:	All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with an opportunity to discuss with the Leader of the Council, and Chief Executive, the authority's approach to ethical governance.
- 1.2 To enable the Standards Committee to be informed of issues of probity in the Council.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Welcome the discussion with the Leader and Chief Executive, and recommend any actions to support continued improvement in the Council's approach to ethical governance.

3. Detail

- 3.1 The Committee includes in its work programme a regular opportunity to discuss with the Leader, and Chief Executive, the ethical governance of the Council.
- 3.2 As background to this discussion is attached at Appendix '1', a copy of the latest ethical desktop audit, which was completed in October 2013, and a copy of the Ethical Audit Toolkit categories published by the IDeA in 2007 (Appendix 2), which provide a useful checklist against which to assess ethical governance. For the information of the Committee, attached at Appendix '3' are the minutes of the last meeting with the Leader and the Chief Executive.
- 3.3 Since the last meeting with the Leader and the Chief Executive, the Council has had further experience of the current ethical framework and members may wish to seek their views on how it is working. The Chief Executive will also update the Committee as to how the Council is continuing to develop its engagements with local people and communities, as requested at the last meeting with the Standards Committee.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 Any alternative options are set out in the body of the report.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Stephen Taylor, 01793 463012, staylor@swindon.gov.uk.

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5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 There are no specific legal or Human Rights implications arising from this report.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 There are no other implications that have been identified as important for this report.

Links to One Swindon, Plans and Policies

- 5.4 Monitoring of issues of probity in the Council underpins the Council's plans and policies and the delivery of One Swindon objectives.

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.5 A Diversity Impact Assessment has not been completed for this report, as it does not recommend a change in Council policy or service.

Risk Management

- 5.6 A risk assessment has not been completed in relation this report, as it does as it does not recommend a change in Council policy or service.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Ethical Desktop Audit – October 2013
8.2 Appendix 2 - IDeA Ethical Audit Toolkit categories
8.3 Appendix 3 – Minutes of the last meeting with the Leader and the Chief Executive.