

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

Standards Committee

Date: 3rd February 2015

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

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 To receive a report from the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive on matters relating to the Council's ethical governance framework and issues of probity.
- 1.2 To discuss with the Leader and the Chief Executive, the Authority's approach to ethical governance and the key priorities in ensuring that high ethical standards continue to be promoted and maintained within the Council.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Welcome this opportunity for discussion with the Leader and Chief Executive, and to recommend any actions that the Committee feels would support continued improvement in the Council's approach to ethical governance.

3. Detail

- 3.1 The Committee includes in its annual 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, a copy of the latest ethical desktop audit, completed in October 2014, is attached at Appendix '1', together with 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.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 No alternative options are presented.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

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

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.4 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

- 5.5 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 2014
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.