

## **CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Report to:** Ethics and Standards Committee

**Date of meeting:** 19 May 2021

**Title:** The Ethics and Standards Forward Work Programme 2021/22

**Purpose of the report:** To review the current work programme of the Committee

### **What does the Ethics & Standards Committee do?**

The Local Government Act 2000 sets out the functions of the Ethics & Standards Committee as follows:-

- promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Councillors
- assisting Councillors to observe the Code of Conduct
- advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the Code of Conduct
- monitoring the operation of the Code of Conduct, and
- advising, training or arranging to train Councillors on matters relating to the Code of Conduct

The Ethics & Standards Committee can also grant dispensations, which permit Councillors who have an interest in a particular item of Council business to continue to take part in that business.

Investigation reports produced by the Ombudsman or the Council's Monitoring Officer on alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct may be referred to the Ethics & Standards Committee for determination.

The Ethics & Standards Committee also exercises the above responsibilities in relation to Town and Community Councils in Ceredigion.

Examples of the type of work carried out by Ceredigion's Ethics & Standards Committee include:

- involvement in developing training materials on the Code, including a flowchart summarising the main provisions of the Code
- attendance at and participation in training sessions on the Code for both the County Council and Community Councils
- attendance at Council and Committee meetings to observe proceedings
- the introduction of procedures which allow Councillors to attend Committee meetings to present an application for dispensation in person
- providing advice to Councillors regarding dispensation applications

### **The Forward Work Programme**

It is proposed that a Forward Work Programme will become a standing item on each agenda of the Committee. This will provide an opportunity for the Committee to review and update the programme of work of the Committee.

A draft Forward Work Programme is attached for consideration (Appendix 1)

**Recommendation(s):**

1) To agree that a Forward Work Programme be a standing item on each agenda of the Committee, and

2) to consider, review and update the current draft Forward Work Programme (**Appendix 1**)

**Contact Name:**

Lisa Evans

**Designation:**

Scrutiny and Standards Officer

**Date of Report:**

30 April 2021

**Acronyms:**

Ethics and Standards Forward Work Programme 2021/22

Date	Item
19 May	<p>S 62 Local Government and Election (Wales) Act 2021 Duties of leaders of political groups in relation to standards of conduct</p> <p>To discuss with party leaders the methods of promoting and maintaining high standards by conduct by Members of Ceredigion County Council</p> <p>To consider applications for dispensation from the following Councillors: Councillor Rees-Evans</p> <p>Recruitment of Independent Members- update</p> <p>Update on Code of Conduct matters– Update on recent press articles</p> <p>Corporate Joint Committees (General) (Wales) Regulations 2021</p> <p>Update on Adjudication Panel for Wales matters</p> <p>Update on the Public Services Ombudsman matters-Consultation on revisions of Code of Conduct Guidances</p> <p>Ethics and Standards Committee Annual Report, 2020/21</p> <p>Training</p> <p>To appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair for the Committee</p>
9 July	<p>To consider applications for dispensation from the following Councillors:</p> <p>Grounds for Dispensation-ground e) of the Standards Committee (Grant of Dispensations)(Wales) Regulations 2001</p> <p>Review of Local Dispute Resolution protocol</p> <p>Update on Adjudication Panel for Wales matters</p> <p>Update on the Public Services Ombudsman matters</p>
11 October	<p>To consider applications for dispensation from the following Councillors:</p>

	<p>Update on Adjudication Panel for Wales matters</p> <p>Update on the Public Services Ombudsman matters</p>
<p>17 January 2022</p>	<p>To consider applications for dispensation from the following Councillors:</p> <p>Update on Adjudication Panel for Wales matters</p> <p>Update on the Public Services Ombudsman matters</p>