

## CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

**Report to:** Ethics and Standards Committee

**Date of meeting:** 17 January 2022

**Title:** Political group leaders update on the duties required under S 62-63 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021

**Purpose of the report:** To note the new duties that S 62-63 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 places on political leaders and the standards committee.

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 places new duties on leaders of political groups and standards committees. Appendix A contains the relevant sections, namely s62 and s63.

With regard to the duties of leaders of political groups in relation to standards of conduct, (S.52A Local Government Act 2000) states that a leader of a political group consisting of members of a county council in Wales must take reasonable steps to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by the members of the group; and must co-operate with the council's standards committee.

In section 54 Local Government Act 2000 (functions of standards committees), a standards committee of a county council or county borough council in Wales also has the specific functions of—

- (a) monitoring compliance by leaders of political groups on the council with their duties under section 52A(1), and
- (b) advising, training or arranging to train leaders of political groups on the council about matters relating to those duties.

S.63 inserts the requirements for the standards committee annual report. As well as describing how the committee's functions have been discharged the report must also include what has been done to discharge the general and specific functions conferred on the committee by section 54 or 56. An annual report by a standards committee of a county council or county borough council in Wales must include the committee's assessment of the extent to which leaders of political groups on the council have complied with their duties under section 52A(1). The annual report may also include recommendations to the authority about any matter in respect of which the committee has functions.

### **Current Position**

The political leaders of Ceredigion County Council are invited annually to the Ethics and Standards Committee to discuss the methods of promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Members of Ceredigion County Council.

It is now necessary for Group Leaders to consider the additional duties upon them to take reasonable steps to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by the members of the group; and how to co-operate with the council's standards committee, and how this can be evidenced.

**Recommendation(s):** Political Group Leaders to update the Committee upon their intended methods and needs in order to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by the members of their group, and how this may be evidenced.

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**Date of Report:** 13 December 2021  
**Acronyms:**