

CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Ethics and Standards Committee

Date of meeting: 13 October 2022

Title: The Ethics and Standards Forward Work Programme 2022/23

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

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

Contact Name: Lisa Evans
Designation: Scrutiny and Standards Officer
Date of Report: 23 September 2022
Acronyms:

Ethics and Standards Forward Work Programme 2022/23

Date	Item
25 Mai	<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>Training</p> <p>Update on Dealing with complaints referred to the Ethics & Standards committee & hearings procedures</p> <p>Annual Report from the Chair of the Ethics and Standards Committee 2021/22</p> <p>Succession planning-lay member</p> <p>Town/Community Council Councillor recruitment-update</p> <p>Code of Conduct decisions by the Ombudsman</p> <p>The Monitoring Officer to provide a quarterly report on the trends of complaints, and their level of seriousness</p>
16 October 2022	<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>Training</p> <p>New Regulations in relation to the Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee</p> <p>CJC Membership/recruitment of town/community council members/recruitment of independent member</p> <p>Quarterly report on trends of complaints</p> <p>Action Log</p>

<p>25 January 2023</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> <p>Training</p> <p>Political Group Leaders invited</p> <p>Review the vision statement</p> <p>Self-evaluation (based on the WLGA role descriptions?)</p> <p>Quarterly report on trends of complaints</p> <p>Action Log</p>
<p>19 April 2023</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> <p>Training</p> <p>Recruitment of independent member update</p> <p>Appointment of Chair/Vice Chair</p> <p>Quarterly report on trends of complaints</p> <p>Action Log</p>