

CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Ethics and Standards Committee

Date of meeting: 5 June 2023

Title: The Ethics and Standards Forward Work Programme 2023/24

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: 25 May 2023
Acronyms:

Ethics and Standards Forward Work Programme 2023/24

Date	Item
19 April 2023	<p>To consider applications for dispensation</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>Action Log</p> <p>Review the vision statement</p> <p>Report on amendment to dispensation form</p>
5 June 2023	<p>Minutes</p> <p>Action Log</p> <p>To consider applications for dispensation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• John Roberts• Marc Davies• Rhodri Evans x2 <p>ESC Annual Report -</p> <p>Political group leaders duties (standing item), update on the workshop with the group leaders on 15/5/23</p> <p>Appointment of Vice Chair –</p> <p>Recruitment of independent member (February 2024)</p> <p>Self evaluation results</p> <p>Quarterly report on trends of complaints</p> <p>WG consultation on Penn report</p>

	<p>Vision Statement</p> <p>Training-with T/Community Councils in 2024</p> <p>Update on Adjudication Panel for Wales matters</p> <p>Update on the Public Services Ombudsman matters</p>
15 November 2023	<p>To consider applications for dispensation:</p> <p>Update on Adjudication Panel for Wales matters</p> <p>Update on the Public Services Ombudsman matters</p> <p>Training</p> <p>Quarterly report on trends of complaints</p> <p>Action Log</p> <p>Political group leaders – standing item (not necessarily invited to each meeting)</p> <p>Harmonisation of gifts/hospitality thresholds across all Welsh Authorities</p> <p>Future priorities of the Committee</p>
10 January 2024	<p>To consider applications for dispensation:</p> <p>Update on Adjudication Panel for Wales matters</p> <p>Update on the Public Services Ombudsman matters</p> <p>Training</p> <p>Quarterly report on trends of complaints</p> <p>Action Log</p> <p>Political group leaders – standing item (not necessarily invited to each meeting)</p>
6 March 2024	<p>To consider applications for dispensation:</p> <p>Update on Adjudication Panel for Wales matters</p>

	<p>Update on the Public Services Ombudsman matters</p> <p>Training</p> <p>Quarterly report on trends of complaints</p> <p>Action Log</p> <p>Political group leaders – standing item (not necessarily invited to each meeting)</p>
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