

CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Ethics and Standards Committee

Date of meeting: 15 November 2023

Title: Amendment to the consolidated statutory and non statutory guidance for principal councils

Purpose of the report: To update the Committee on the amendment to the consolidated statutory and non statutory guidance for principal councils

Background

There has been an amendment to the consolidated statutory and non statutory guidance for principal councils in Wales at Part 2, Section 6.0, paragraph 6.4.

The guidance has been amended to read that standards committees (as opposed to standards committee chairs) should meet with group leaders at the beginning of each council year to agree a number of issues.

The updated guidance has been published on the following links:

[Statutory and non-statutory guidance on democracy within principal councils | GOV.WALES](#)

[Canllawiau statudol ar ddemocratiaeth o fewn prif gynghorau | LLYW.CYMRU](#)

A set of videos on ethical standards and the code of conduct have been developed. The final versions are now live and can be found here:

[Standards of behaviour for councillors in Wales - YouTube](#)

[Advice on how to complain about a councillor in Wales - YouTube](#)

[How councillors should behave and interact with people - YouTube](#)

[Safonau ymddygiad ar gyfer cynghorwyr yng Nghymru - YouTube](#)

[Cyngor ar sut i gwyno am gynghorydd yng Nghymru - YouTube](#)

[Sut dylai cynghorwyr ymddwyn ac ymwneud â phobl - YouTube](#)

The relevant section for the Ethics and Standards Committee are Part 2 4.0-7.0.

4.0 Statutory Guidance on duties of leaders of political groups in relation to standards of conduct.....	20
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6.0 Duty of a standards committee to monitor group leaders' compliance with the duties, and provision of advice and training.....	30
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We draw your attention to para 4.36 and 4.24 of the Statutory and Non-Statutory Guidance introduced in June '23 relating to Political Group Leaders meeting their statutory duty in the '21 Act and the interface with Standards Committee (not least the threshold to be used by the individual Standards Committee).

4.36 At the beginning of each council year Political group leaders should meet with the standards committee to agree the following:

- How group leaders and the standards committee will work together to ensure appropriate standards of behaviour;
- Frequency of meetings between group leaders and the standards committee throughout the year;
- The threshold which the standards committee will use to establish whether it is content that political group leaders have complied with the duties of the 2021 Act;
- The mechanism for political group leaders to provide reports to the standards committee about the actions they have taken to comply with the duties within the 2021 Act.

4.24 Reasonable steps the group leader may undertake include:

- demonstrating personal commitment to and attending and participating in relevant development or training around equalities and standards, including on the Code of Conduct;
- actively encouraging group members to attend relevant development or training around equalities and standards including in relation to the Code of Conduct;
- ensuring nominees to a committee have received the recommended training for participating on that committee;
- promoting modelling civility and respect within group communications and meetings and in formal council meetings;
- supporting informal resolution procedures in the council, and working with the standards committee and monitoring officers to achieve local resolution;
- encouraging a culture within the group which supports high standards of conduct and integrity;
- attend a meeting of the council's standards committee if requested to participate in discussions on Code of Conduct issues;
- drive forward work to implement any recommendations from the standards committee about improving standards;
- work with the standards committee to proactively identify, consider and tackle patterns of inappropriate behaviour;
- work together with other group leaders, within reason, to collectively support high standards of conduct within the council and where any issues identified involve more than one political group.

The template has been reviewed and will be considered on today's agenda.

Wellbeing of Future Generations:

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If, not, please state why.

No

Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment:

Long term: N/A

Collaboration: N/A

Involvement: N/A

Prevention: N/A

Integration: N/A

Recommendation(s):

To note the amendment to the consolidated statutory and non statutory guidance for principal councils.

Contact Name: Lisa Evans

Designation: Scrutiny and Standards Officer

Date of Report: 18/10/23

Acronyms: