

**GWYNEDD COUNCIL STANDARDS COMMITTEE DECISION NOTICE**

**(Section 100C of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020)**

**11 July 2022**

**Virtual Meeting**

**Present:**

**Elected Members:** Councillors Anne Lloyd Jones, Beth Lawton and Dewi Owen.

**Independent Members:** Mr Aled Jones, Mr Hywel Eifion Jones, Mr Dave Wareing and Dr Einir Young (Chair)

**Community Committee Member:** Mr Richard Parry Hughes

**Also in attendance:** Sion Huws (Propriety and Elections Manager) and Eirian Roberts (Democracy Services Officer).

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<b>Date of STANDARDS COMMITTEE Meeting</b>	11 July 2022
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**SUBJECT**

Item 1: ELECTION OF CHAIR

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**DECISION**

To elect Dr Einir Young as Chair of this Committee.

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**THE RESULT OF THE VOTE**

Unanimously accepted.

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**DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS**

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

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## **GWYNEDD COUNCIL STANDARDS COMMITTEE DECISION NOTICE**

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### **SUBJECT**

Item 2: ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

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### **DECISION**

**To elect Mr Hywel Eifion Jones as Vice-chair of this Committee.**

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### **THE RESULT OF THE VOTE**

Unanimously accepted.

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### **DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS**

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

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## **GWYNEDD COUNCIL STANDARDS COMMITTEE DECISION NOTICE**

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### **SUBJECT**

Item 7: THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

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### **DECISION**

To approve the annual report to be submitted to the full Council on 6 October, subject to adding an introduction and foreword by the Chair and Monitoring Officer, reference to the Ombudsman's response to the Committee's decision on the complaint referred to it, and to make minor alterations to the members' biographies.

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### **THE RESULT OF THE VOTE**

Unanimously accepted.

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### **DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS**

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

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## GWYNEDD COUNCIL STANDARDS COMMITTEE DECISION NOTICE

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### SUBJECT

Item 8: SELF-ASSESSMENT AND WORK PROGRAMME

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### DECISION

(a) To adopt the following as the committee's self-evaluation of its performance in 2021/22.

FUNCTION	ASSESSMENT (1/2/3/4)	Evidence	Further action
1. Promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members	1.	The Chair and Vice-chair had attended the North Wales Standards Forum to share experiences with other standards committees.  Submit an annual report to the Full Council  The Committee had received a report on the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021	Continue to attend and support
2. Assist the members to adhere to the Code of Conduct	3.	The Monitoring Officer and his team provide advice and guidance at meetings, and on a one-to-one basis for members.	Resume training stages when resources permit
3. Advise the Council with regard to adopting or amending the Code of Conduct	1.	No occasion has arisen to amend the Code.	
4. Monitor the implementation of the Code of Conduct	3	Receive regular reports of allegations against members  Receive the annual reports of the Ombudsman and the	Continue to monitor and consider alternative methods of receiving information.

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		<p>Adjudication Panel for Wales.</p> <p>The Committee resolved to commence the work on the new duty imposed on Political Group Leaders regarding the conduct of their members.</p>	<p>Receive annual reports on the register of interests and hospitality.</p> <p>Following the Election, steps will be taken to work with Leaders to establish operational arrangements for the new provision.</p>
5. Advise, train or arrange for members to receive training on matters relating to the Code of Conduct	3.	Induction training was arranged for new members of Gwynedd Council in preparation for the elections.	Need to look at providing new training.
6. Granting dispensations to members	1.	No applications have been considered under the new procedure.	
7. Deal with reports of case tribunals and any reports from the Monitoring Officer on matters referred by the Ombudsman	1.	One case referred to the Committee by the Ombudsman was dealt with.	
8. Authorise the Monitoring Officer to pay allowances to persons assisting with an investigation	No action required	There were no occasions where such an allowance was due	
9. Exercise the above functions in relation to community councils	3	<p>The Monitoring Officer and his team provide advice and guidance to councillors, clerks and members.</p> <p>Adopt a training pilot on the Code of Conduct. A session has been included to pilot the content of the course.</p>	This must be considered as a priority.

(b) Approve the following work programme for 2022/23:-

11 July 2022  
Annual Report  
Allegations against Members

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**Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021**

**21 November 2022**

**Register of Gifts and Hospitality  
Declaration of Interests Register  
The Ombudsman's Annual Report  
Allegations against Members  
Adopting a Protocol for Political Group Leaders**

**13 February 2023**

**Adjudication Panel's Annual Report  
Allegations against Members  
Self-assessment and Work Programme  
The Committee's Annual Report**

- (c) To authorise the Chair and Community Committee Member, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, to press on with the work with a sample of community and town council clerks to better understand their needs, ensuring an appropriate ethical process for doing that, and convene a further meeting of the Task and Finish Group - the Ethical Standards Framework at the beginning of September to receive feedback from the discussions with the clerks.**

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**THE RESULT OF THE VOTE**

Unanimously accepted.

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**DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS**

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

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**SUBJECT**

Item 9: ALLEGATIONS AGAINST MEMBERS

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**DECISION**

To note the information.

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**THE RESULT OF THE VOTE**

Unanimously accepted.

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**DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS**

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

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