

CYNGOR GWYNEDD STANDARDS COMMITTEE DECISION NOTICE

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

17 June 2024

Virtual Meeting

Present:

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

Independent Members: Mr Aled Jones, Mr Hywel Eifion Jones (Chair), Mr Mark Jones and Mr Dave Wareing.

Community Committee Member: Mr Richard Parry Hughes.

Also in attendance: Iwan Evans (Monitoring Officer), Sion Huws (Propriety and Elections Manager) and Sioned Mai Jones (Democracy Services Officer).

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Date of STANDARDS COMMITTEE Meeting	17 June 2024
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SUBJECT

Item 5: SELF-ASSESSMENT AND WORK PROGRAMME

DECISION

(a) To adopt the following as the Standards Committee's self-evaluation of its performance in 2023/24.

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 have attended the Wales Standards Forum to share experiences with other standards committees. Submit the annual report to the Full Council.	Continue to attend and support.
2. Assist the members to adhere to the Code of Conduct	1.	The Monitoring Officer and his team provide advice and guidance at meetings, and on a one-to-one basis for members.	
3. Advise the Council with regard to adopting or amending the Code of Conduct	1.	No occasion had arisen to revise the Code. However, the Internal Resolution Procedure was reviewed to support the duty of Leaders of Political Groups under 52A(1) of the Local Government Act 2000.	
4. Monitor the implementation of the Code of Conduct	1.	Receive regular reports on allegations against members. Receive the annual reports of	Continue to monitor and consider alternative methods of receiving

		the Ombudsman and the Adjudication Panel for Wales.	information. Receive annual reports on the register of interests and hospitality.
5. Advise, train or arrange for members to receive training on matters relating to the Code of Conduct	3.	Full Code of Conduct training was arranged for members with the first session taking place during February and the second in April.	Need to look at providing further training as many members did not attend.
6. Granting dispensations to members	1.	Two applications for dispensation were discussed and allocated by the Committee in February 2024.	
7. Deal with reports of case tribunals and any reports from the Monitoring Officer on matters referred by the Ombudsman	1.	One hearing was held during the year regarding a Member of Cyngor Gwynedd. In addition, the procedure for hearings was reviewed to strengthen the communication.	
8. Authorise the Monitoring Officer to pay allowances to persons assisting with an investigation	No action required.	None to report	
9. Monitor the compliance of Leaders of Political Groups on the Council and their duties under Section 52A(1) of the Local Government Act 2000. Advise, train or arrange for the Council's Political Group Leaders to receive training on matters relating to those duties.	2.	A joint session was held with Political Group Leaders and the Standards Committee Leaders to consider the duty. Criteria and a reporting on duty procedure were adopted. The Monitoring Officer has met with the Group Leaders individually to discuss the Code of Conduct matters.	The arrangements will be undertaken in accordance with the statutory guidelines.
10. Exercise the relevant above functions in relation to community councils	3.	The Monitoring Officer and his team provide advice and guidance to councillors, clerks and members. However, it was acknowledged that providing for an activity such as training has been challenging and this area needed attention and to come to a conclusion	Need to consider resuming the programme virtually when resources allow.

		regarding the way forward.	
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- (b) Agree to move the Review Internal Resolution Procedure item from the meeting in November 2024 to the meeting in February 2025 to add an item on Training and Supporting Community Councils to the meeting in November. Following this amendment, to approve the following work programme for 2024/25:-

17 June 2024

Annual Report

Allegations against members

Self-assessment and Work Programme

4 November 2024

Register of Gifts and Hospitality

Declaration of Interests Register

The Ombudsman's Annual Report

Allegations against members

Review of the Protocol for Political Group Leaders

To accept the report from the Wales Standards Forum

Training and Supporting Community Councils

17 February 2025

Adjudication Panel's Annual Report

Allegations against members

Self-assessment and Work Programme

Review Internal Solution Arrangements

THE RESULT OF THE VOTE

Unanimously accepted.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

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SUBJECT

Item 6: THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

DECISION

To approve the Annual Report of the Standards Committee for 2023-24 to be submitted to the full Council on 11 July 2024, subject to making the complaint of breaching the code of conduct unknown.

THE RESULT OF THE VOTE

Unanimously accepted.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

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SUBJECT

Item 7: ALLEGATIONS AGAINST MEMBERS

DECISION

To note the information.

THE RESULT OF THE VOTE

Unanimously accepted.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.
