

MEEETING	Standards Committee
DATE	17 June 2024
TITLE	Self Assessment and Work Programme
AUTHOR	Monitoring Officer.

1. There are two aims in this report namely undertake a assessment of the work and outcomes of the Committee for 2023-24 and consider a draft work programme for 2024-25

2. The terms of reference of the Standards Committee has been established through statute in the Councils Constitution and it is timely that that the Committee perhaps considers them anew at the beginning of a new term so as to prepare a work plan for the year..
 - (a) promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Councillors and co-opted Members of the Authority;
 - (b) assisting the Councillors and co-opted Members to observe the Members' Code of Conduct;
 - (c) advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct;
 - (d) monitoring the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct;
 - (e) advising, training or arranging to train Councillors and co-opted Members on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct;
 - (f) Exercise the relevant above functions in relation to community councils

and these specific functions—
 - (g) monitoring compliance by leaders of political groups on the council with their duties under section 52A(1) Local Government Act 2000;
 - (h) advising, training or arranging to train leaders of political groups on the council about matters relating to those duties.

3. The Committee members are asked to consider the functions listed in the first column and then note which assessment they believe is relevant, using the following categories :

Category 1 – That the Committee has made significant progress in achieving the function or in the case of specific tasks that the need to act has not arisen.

Category 2 – That the Committee has substantially implemented the function.

Category 3 – That the Committee has acted in the function but there is a need to give further attention.

Category 4 – There is no evidence that the Committee has actioned the function and there is a basis for concluding that the area needs attention.

4. It is necessary to note the evidence which supports the category which the Committee awards. The column "Evidence" shows some examples of evidence, but it is possible that the Committee members are able to add to it.
5. By assigning a category to each function and noting the evidence, it is possible for the Committee to come to a conclusion regarding which further steps they need to take (if any). The last column contains some suggestions for further steps. These are the matters which will be fed through to the Committee work programme in the future.

Appendices

In Appendix 1 there is a draft self assessment for the committees consideration

In Appendix 2 a draft work programme for 2024-25

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to undertake a self assessment of its performance in 2023-24 and approve the work programme for 2024-25

APPENDIX 1

SELF ASSESSMENT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE 2023 -24

FUNCTION	ASSESSMENT (1/2/3/4)	Evidence	Further Action
Promote and maintain a high standard of conduct amongst members		<p>The Chair and Vice Chair have the Welsh Standards Forum to share experiences with other standards committees.</p> <p>Submit an annual report to the Full Council</p>	Continue to attend and support
Assist the members to keep to the Code of Conduct		The Monitoring Officer and his team provide advice and guidance in meetings and on a one to one basis.	Resume training when resources allow
Advise the Council regarding adopting or amending the Code of Conduct		<p>There were no instances where a need to amend the code arose.</p> <p>But, the Internal Resolution Protocol e was reviewed to support the duty of Political Group Leaders under 52A(1) of the Local Government Act 2000;</p>	
Monitor the operation of the Code of Conduct		<p>Receive regular reports on allegations against members</p> <p>Receive the annual reports of the Adjudication Panel for Wales and the Ombudsman</p>	<p>Continue to monitor.</p> <p>Receive annual reports on the declaration of interests register.</p>

Advise, train or arrange training for members on matters relating to the Code of Conduct		Full Code of Conduct training has been arranged for members with the first session taking place during February and the second in April	Consider new training for Council Members.
Grant dispensations to members		Two requests for dispensation were considered and approved by the Committee in February 2024	
Deal with reports of tribunals and any reports from the Monitoring Officer on matters referred by the Ombudsman		1 hearing was held during the year regarding Gwynedd Council Member The procedure for hearings was also reviewed to strengthen communication.	
Authorise the Monitoring Officer to pay allowances to persons assisting with an investigation		No occasion has arisen	
Monitoring compliance by leaders of political groups on the council with their duties under section 52A(1) Local Government Act 2000; Advising, training or arranging to train leaders of political groups on the council about matters relating to those duties.		A joint session was held with Group Leaders and members of the Standards Committee to consider the duty Duty reporting criteria and order were adopted. The Monitoring Officer has met with the Group Leaders individually to discuss Code of Conduct issues	The arrangements will be undertaken in accordance with the statutory guidance.
Exercise the relevant above functions in relation to community councils		The Monitoring Officer and his team provide advice and guidance to councils, members and clerks. However, it is recognised that providing for an activity such as training has been challenging and this area needs attention	Pilot course held with Tywyn Town Council with positive feedback.

		and a conclusion as to a way forward	
--	--	---	--

ATODIAD 2/ APPENDIX 2

<p>Gwaith Pwyllgor Safonau 2024/2025</p>	<p>Standards Committee Work –2024/25</p>
<p>17 Mehefin 2024</p> <p>Adroddiad Blynyddol</p> <p>Honiadau yn erbyn aelodau</p> <p>Hunan Asesiad a Rhaglen Waith</p>	<p>17 June 2024</p> <p>Annual Report</p> <p>Allegations Against Members</p> <p>Self-Assessment and Work Programme</p>
<p>4Tachwedd 2024</p> <p>Cofrestr Rhoddion a Lletygarwch</p> <p>Cofrestr Datgan Buddiant</p> <p>Adroddiad Blynyddol yr Ombwdsman</p> <p>Honiadau yn erbyn Aelodau</p> <p>Adolygu gweithrediad Protocol Arweinyddion Grwpiau Gwleidyddol</p> <p>Adolygu trefniadau datrysiad Mewnol</p> <p>Derbyn adroddiad o Fforwm Safonau Cymru</p>	<p>4 November 2024</p> <p>Gifts and Hospitality Register</p> <p>Declaration of Interest Registers</p> <p>Ombudsman’s Annual Report</p> <p>Allegations Against Members</p> <p>Review the operation of the Group Leaders Protocol</p> <p>Review of Internal resolution arrangements</p> <p>Receive report from the Wales Standards Forum</p>
<p>Chwefror 2025</p> <p>Adroddiad Blynyddol y Panel Dyfarnu</p> <p>Honiadau yn erbyn aelodau</p> <p>Hunan Asesiad a Rhaglen Waith</p> <p>.</p>	<p>February 2025</p> <p>Annual Report of Adjudication Panel</p> <p>Allegations against members</p> <p>Self-Assessment and Work Programme</p>