

MEETING	Standards Committee
DATE	17 February 2025
TITLE	The Local Government And Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (“The Act”) Duties of Political Group Leaders and the Standards Committee (Leaders of Political Groups are invited to the Meeting)
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1. Background

The Act places two main duties on Political Group Leaders (“Leaders”) in relation to the conduct standards of group Members through Section 62. The duties are:

- To take reasonable steps to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members of their group.
- Co-operate with the Standards Committee as it exercises its functions.

In addition, the functions of the Standards Committee are extended to include:

- Monitor Leaders’ compliance with the duty.
- Advise, train or arrange to train Leaders on duty.

The new duty has now come into force since May 2022 which places a positive requirement on Leaders to take positive action to promote and maintain behaviour. This will involve collaboration between the Standards Committee and the Leaders. This can be a positive step to support members' standards of conduct and to resolve issues early.

A Protocol was adopted by the Committee in November 2022

[Agenda for Standards Committee on Monday, 21st November, 2022, 10.30 am \(llyw.cymru\)](#)

2. Standards Committee Responsibilities

The statutory changes also impose a requirement on the Standards Committee to monitor compliance and the duty as set out above and report on this as part of the annual report. To facilitate this and ensure a balanced and fair process we therefore set out to establish criteria for measuring compliance. Nationally prepared suggestions were used as a starting point. These were reviewed at a briefing meeting between Committee members and Leaders of the Political Groups. The criteria recommended is appended in Appendix 1 together with the form of report in Appendix 2.

Recommendation

To review the operation of the duty and to confirm reporting arrangements going forward.

