Cyd-Bwyllgor Corfforedig
Gogledd Cymru
North Wales
Corporate Joint Committee

NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

25 September, 2026

TITLE: Establishment of a Standards Sub-Committee

AUTHOR: Helen Edwards, Deputy Monitoring Officer

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To enable a Standards Sub-Committee to be established.

2. DECISION SOUGHT

That the Corporate Joint Committee is asked to:

2.1 Agree the Terms of Reference for the Standards Sub-Committee (Appendix 1).

2.2 Agree that the constituent authorities and National Park Authority will be asked to nominate members of the sub-committee as set out in para 4.5 below.

2.4 Agree that constituent authorities will be asked to nominate Independent members from their Standards Committees, subject to the statutory eligibility requirements. In default of sufficient nominations, agree that the CJC will undertake a public external recruitment campaign.

2.5 Agree the recruitment timetable and process for Independent Members as set out in paragraphs 4.6 and 4.7 of this report, and authorise the Monitoring Officer to a) amend this if necessary and b) establish and determine an appointments panel in accordance with regulation 15 of the Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001, as amended.

3. REASON FOR THE DECISION

To allow the Corporate Joint Committee to progress towards establishing a Standards Sub-Committee and holding the first meeting of the sub-committee, in accordance with its statutory obligations.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 The Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001 (as amended) require the Corporate Joint Committee to establish a Standards Sub-Committee.

4.2 The Terms of Reference for the sub-committee will form part of the Constitution and must be agreed by the Corporate Joint Committee.

4.3 The Regulations require the Standards Sub-Committee to be not less than 5 members, and not more than 9. It is proposed that the sub-committee should be made up of 7 members, which seems a practical size for the sub-committee to be able to transact the relevant business, ensure a wide range of skills amongst its members, and encourage meetings to be quorate (the Regulations set quorum as 3 members, at least half of which must be Independent Members).

4.4 The Regulations require at least half of the members of the sub-committee to be Independent Members if the numbers on the committee are even, and if they are odd, Independent Members must be in the majority. It is proposed that there should be 4 Independent Members on the sub-committee.

4.5 The remaining 3 members of the sub-committee will be drawn from members of the constituent authorities and National Park Authority. There are restrictions on who may become a member of the Standards Sub-Committee, which prevent any member of the Corporate Joint Committee or any of its other sub-committees from being a member of the Standards Sub-Committee. Constituent authorities and the National Park Authority will be asked to agree which of them should put forward one of the 3 members (who should represent at least two different political parties) and agree their nominations through their own processes in the usual way.

4.6 The proposed recruitment timetable is as follows:

4.6.1 Request nominations from constituent authorities for the 4 Independent Members, from their own Standards Committees. If sufficient nominations are not received by the end of September, publish advert to recruit Independent Members.

4.6.2 Deadline of 12 noon on 16 October for interested candidates to submit their application.

4.6.3 Week commencing 19 October shortlisting of candidates.

4.6.4 Week commencing 2 November for Panel interviews of shortlisted candidates.

4.6.5 Corporate Joint Committee meeting 20 November 2026 to consider the Panel recommendations and appoint the Independent Members.

4.6.6 January 2027 initial training to be provided to members of the Standards Sub-Committee.

4.6.7 Late January to early March 2027 first meeting of the Standards Sub-Committee to be held.

4.7 The Regulations are prescriptive as to the composition of the interview panel for Independent Members, in that it must consist of no more than 5 people including one Lay member. It is proposed that the Panel should be made up of 3 people, including one Lay member, who is defined as a member of a constituent authority who is not a member of the executive of that authority, or a member of the constituent National Park Authority who is not an eligible member of the CJC.

4.8 All applicants will be required to demonstrate that they satisfy the statutory eligibility requirements. The Monitoring Officer will undertake the necessary eligibility checks before recommendations for appointment are submitted to the CJC.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The sub-committee will need to meet at least once a year, and will need to be serviced by democratic services and other officers as any other sub-committee.

6. INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1. Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

In developing the Recommendations of this report, regard has been had to the well-being duty arising under the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 ('the Act'). It is considered that a well-functioning Standards Sub-Committee will support the integrity of local democracy, which will have a positive impact on the well-being of future generations.

6.2. Equality Act 2010

There are no specific equalities implications arising from this report. Applications for the role of Independent Members will be judged on merit against the Person Criteria, and the Panel will attempt to select members who reflect the diversity of the North Wales area.

6.3. Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011

There are no negative implications. The ability to communicate in the Welsh language has been added to the Person Specification for the Independent Members as a desirable criterion. Consideration was given to making the ability to communicate in the Welsh language an essential skill, but the restrictions on eligibility for being an Independent Member are already so tight that it was considered this would potentially make recruitment even more challenging.

6.4. Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty

No specific implications

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Pursuant to s53 of the Local Government Act 2000 the Corporate Joint Committee must establish a Standards Sub-Committee, in accordance with the Standards Committee (Wales) regulations 2001 as amended. The recommendations within this report are in accordance with the legislative requirements.

7.2 Agreeing and / or amending the terms of reference of its sub-committees, and making appointments to them is, except as expressly and lawfully delegated, a matter reserved to the Corporate Joint Committee in accordance with its Constitution.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Independent Members of the Standards Sub-Committee are entitled to modest allowances in accordance with the amounts set by the Democracy & Boundary Commission Cymru.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: Terms of Reference of the Standards Sub-Committee

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STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer:

"The establishment of a Standards Sub-Committee is a statutory requirement under section 53 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001, as amended.

The proposed membership of seven, comprising four Independent Members and three members drawn from the constituent authorities and National Park Authority, is consistent with the statutory requirements.

The recruitment and appointment of Independent Members must comply with the prescribed statutory procedures, including public advertisement, assessment against published criteria and consideration of recommendations from a properly constituted appointments panel. Individual eligibility will be verified before appointments are made, particularly where applicants currently hold appointments to the Standards Committees of constituent authorities.

Subject to compliance with these requirements, I support the recommendations and the proposed arrangements for establishing the Standards Sub-Committee."

ii. Section 151 Officer:

"The expenditure resulting from the proposals have been considered as part of the democratic costs of the CJC. I have no objection to the decision sought."