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**CYNGOR SIR
YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mr Dylan Williams
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RHYBUDD O GYFARFOD		NOTICE OF MEETING	
PWYLLGOR SAFONAU		STANDARDS COMMITTEE	
DYDD IAU, 12 MEHEFIN 2025 am 10:00 o'r gloch		THURSDAY, 12 JUNE 2025 at 10.00 am	
YSTAFELL BWYLLGOR, SWYDDFEYDD Y CYNGOR AC YN RHITHIOL DRWY ZOOM		COMMITTEE ROOM, COUNCIL OFFICES AND VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM	
Swyddog Pwyllgor	Mrs Shirley Cooke 01248 752518		Committee Officer

Aelodau Annibynnol / Independent Members

Mr Thomas Rhys Davies
Mr Brace Griffiths
Mr John Robert Jones
Mrs Gill Murgatroyd
Mr Trefor Owen

Yn cynrychioli'r Cyngor Sir / Representing the County Council

Y Cynghorydd/Councillor Margaret M Roberts
Y Cynghorydd/Councillor Dafydd Rhys Thomas

Yn cynrychioli'r Cyngorau Tref/Cymuned / Representing the Town/Community Councils

Mr Iorwerth Roberts
Mrs Margaret Thomas

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A G E N D A

1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

To receive any declaration of interest from a Member or Officer regarding any item of business.

2 MINUTES OF MEETING (Pages 1 - 14)

To confirm the draft minutes of the previous meetings of the Standards Committee held on 6 February and 26 February 2025.

3 DEMOCRATIC SERVICES UPDATE (Pages 15 - 16)

A report by the Head of Democracy.

4 MEMBER DEVELOPMENT (Pages 17 - 22)

A report by the Human Resources Learning and Development Manager.

5 CONDUCT COMPLAINTS TO THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES (PSOW) (Pages 23 - 26)

A report by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer in relation to: -

- (a) County Councillors, and
 - (b) Town/Community Councillors
- for Quarter 4 of 2024/25

6 DECISIONS BY THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES (Pages 27 - 44)

A report by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer on the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Investigation Outcomes published since the last Standards Committee meeting.

7 DECISIONS BY THE ADJUDICATION PANEL FOR WALES (Pages 45 - 56)

A report by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer on the APW's decisions in Wales since the last Standards Committee meeting.

8 APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATIONS

It is usual practice for a report to be prepared to the Standards Committee by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer on the applications for dispensations considered by the Standards Committee. During the period between

the Standards Committee on 6th February 2025 and the day of publishing this agenda, no applications have been received. On this basis, no report is attached.

9 UPDATE ON THE NATIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE FORUM (Pages 57 - 58)

A report by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer on the National Forum for Independent Members of Standards Committees in Wales.

10 DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE 2024/2025 (Pages 59 - 96)

A report by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer providing a draft of the Committee's annual report.

11 CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING FOR THE TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS (Pages 97 - 102)

A report by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer detailing the attendance by Town and Community Councillors at training sessions arranged by the Committee in Autumn 2024.

12 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC (Pages 103 - 104)

To consider adopting the following: -

"Under Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, to exclude the press and public from the meeting during the discussion on the following item on the grounds that it may involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of the said Act and in the attached Public Interest Test."

13 CONDUCT ISSUES (Pages 105 - 110)

A report by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer sharing details of the Decision Notices received from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

14 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC (Pages 111 - 112)

To consider adopting the following: -

"Under Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, to exclude the press and public from the meeting during the discussion on the following item on the grounds that it may involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of the said Act and in the attached Public Interest Test."

15 APPOINTMENTS PROCESS FOR AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE (Pages 113 - 144)

A report by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer to provide details of the process to be followed in appointing a new independent member to the Standards Committee in December 2025.

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STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2025

PRESENT: **Independent Members**

Mr Trefor Owen (Chair)

Mr T Rhys Davies

Mr Brace Griffiths

Mr John R Jones

Representing the County Council

Councillor Dafydd Rhys Thomas

Representing Town and Community Councils

Councillor Iorwerth Roberts (from 10:55am)

IN ATTENDANCE: Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer
Legal Service Manager
Head of Democracy (for Item 4)
Human Resources Training and Development Manager (EP) (for Item 5)
Committee Officer (SC)

APOLOGIES: Mrs Gill Murgatroyd
Councillor Margaret M Roberts
Mrs Margaret Thomas (Town and Community Council)

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received.

2. TO ELECT A VICE-CHAIR

Mr Brace Griffiths was elected Vice-Chair from amongst the Standards Committee's independent members until 14 February 2028; (the date when the previous Vice-Chair's term of office would have expired), or until Mr Griffiths' term of office comes to an end, whichever is soonest.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The draft minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 18 June 2024 were confirmed as correct.

The Chair reported that the Committee has received an updated action log of matters arising from the minutes. He stated that the recommendations from the minutes are being actioned or have been implemented.

The draft minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Standards Committee held on 16 September 2024 were confirmed as correct.

4. DEMOCRATIC SERVICES UPDATE

Submitted – an update report by the Head of Democracy on the work undertaken within Democratic Services that is relevant to this Committee, and the Improvement Plan that was shared with the Committee in September 2024. The Plan deals with some democratic issues raised following the review of the Members' Registers of Interests.

The Head of Democracy reported that 15 of the 20 actions in the Plan have been implemented. Of the 5 remaining, 2 are ongoing and 2 cannot be resolved at present. An additional action has been added to those presented by the Standards Committee, where significant progress has been made.

The two unresolved matters relate to Modern.Gov software; the system does not provide a Welsh language interface to input Registers of Interests' information, nor does it provide the option for members to complete declarations of interests during online meetings. Regarding the first issue, members can complete the Register in English or Welsh and have been offered support from the democratic service to translate text, and secondly, staff are on hand to provide electronic copies of forms for members, as required.

The following points were also noted from the report: -

- The Protocol for Hybrid Meetings will be reviewed and updated as necessary.
- An officer from North Wales Police will attend a meeting with members this month to advise them on personal safety.
- 26 members annual reports were received for 2023/24. The updated template for 2024/25 will be shared with members soon, to be completed by the end of May 2025.
- Members have been reminded to register declarations of interest within 28 days. Guidance was also shared on the process of updating the registers online.
- Group Leaders receive quarterly updates on member training.

RESOLVED to note the content of the report.

Action: None

5. MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

Submitted - a report by the Human Resources Training and Development Manager (HRTDM) on training and development provision that has been offered to elected members over the last financial year.

The HRTDM reported that from April 2023 to date, 39 training sessions have been offered to members, 24 less than the previous year.

She referred to the Training Plan for 2024/25 outlined in Appendix 1 to the report, and stated that greater emphasis has been placed on mandatory training recently, resulting in an increase in the number of training sessions attended. It was noted that 34 out of 35 members attended Health and Safety training. Increases have also been recorded for Equality, Diversity & Inclusion and Data Protection training. During the next period, attention will focus on Cyber Security, Safeguarding and Well-being.

The HRTM reported that enquiries of WLGA and LGA confirm that they do not have bilingual training provision in relation to coaching for Group Leaders. However, arrangements are in place for Nia Gwynn Meacher to complete DiSC Profile de-briefs with each of the Group Leaders, to be followed by a series of coaching sessions led by Gwen Greaves, formerly of Glaslyn Training. Both activities will be available bilingually, with dates to be agreed.

It was noted that virtual training sessions and recorded training have been offered to members as well as classroom sessions. Health and Safety videos have also been shared with members, which have proved very successful.

RESOLVED to note the content of the report.

Action: None

6. CONDUCT COMPLAINTS TO THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES (PSOW)

Submitted for information – a report by the Head of Function (Council Business)/ Monitoring Officer on quarterly complaints received by the PSOW in relation to (a) County Councillors, and (b) Town and Community Councillors for Quarters 1-3, 2024/25.

The Monitoring Officer reported that three complaints against Town and Community Councillors had been referred to the PSOW; two have been rejected, the third matter is ongoing and has been under investigation for over a year.

It was noted that four complaints had been submitted to the PSOW against County Councillors for the period. The Ombudsman rejected the first and second complaint and reminded the second complainant of the individual's obligation to declare an interest under the Code of Conduct. The third matter has been under investigation since February 2024 and is ongoing. The investigation into the fourth matter has concluded following an investigation lasting 18 months, where the Ombudsman has referred the matter to the Standards Committee.

The Standards Committee expressed concern that the PSOW complaints process was lengthy. The Chair referred to a meeting of the Standards Committee Chairs Forum which he attended recently, where the Ombudsman had stated that her aim was to complete investigations within 12 months but was finding the timescale difficult to achieve due to a lack of resources.

RESOLVED: -

- To note the content of Enclosures 1-6 in the report.
- That the Chair of the Standards Committee writes to the Ombudsman to express the Committee's concerns regarding the timescale for investigations into complaints to be concluded, and
- That the Chair and the Monitoring Officer agree on the timeframe of when to write to the Ombudsman.

Action: See Resolution above

7. DECISIONS BY THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES (PSOW)

Submitted - a report by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer summarising the PSOW's published findings of Code of Conduct complaints in Wales from June to December 2024.

The Monitoring Officer raised the following points from the 11 case summaries that had been referred to the PSOW: -

- Llanedi Community Council – this case demonstrated that behaviour and language are significant factors when deciding whether the Code of Conduct has been breached. Emphasis was placed on realising the effect you can have on others.
- Porthcawl Town Council/Bridgend County Borough Council – the two cases highlighted the importance of declaring a personal or prejudicial interest. Although no steps were taken in these decisions, the message delivered is that Councillors need to be careful with the disclosure of interests to avoid complaints and putting themselves in stressful situations.
- Flintshire County Council – no evidence which highlighted any appearance of favouritism, prejudice or undue influence was presented on breaching the Code in this case. Two risk factors were identified, the first being a risk to the member being subject to a complaint, which, depending on evidence could be serious. The other risk being if the member has been involved in a decision where prejudicial bias was present, the decision itself could be challenged and overturned, leading to significant costs to the authority.
- Newport City Council – members should avoid using the title 'Councillor' if they are going to complain about somebody in their personal life.
- Saundersfoot Community Council/Pembroke County Council – this case highlighted that a decision to withdraw a complaint lies with the Ombudsman and not the Complainant, if there is sufficient evidence or the complaint is in the public's interest. The message here is that when making a complaint to the PSOW under the Code, the Complainant should not treat the matter lightly as the case could be followed through.
- Llantilio Pertholey Community Council – Town and Community Councils were reminded of the Local Resolution Protocol. It was considered that the investigation into the case could have been resolved without the Ombudsman's intervention.

Discussion focused on the best options to share information with members on the case summaries and lessons learned from this report.

RESOLVED: -

- To note the content of the case summaries presented in the report.
- To discuss with Group Leaders how the Standards Committee should share information, prior to circulating a letter with links to members.
- To discuss the Standards Committee's proposal to present the lessons learnt from the PSOW's decisions in members' briefing sessions with the Chief Executive.

Action: See Resolution above

8. ADJUDICATION PANEL FOR WALES (APW) DECISIONS

Submitted – a report by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer summarising cases published by the Adjudication Panel for Wales (APW) since the Standards Committee's last meeting on 18 June 2024 and 31 December 2024.

The Monitoring Officer gave a summary of the following cases published by the APW: -

The first case involved a decision to disqualify the elected member for 12 months for a breach of the Code of Conduct by bringing the Council into disrepute. The case related to harassment of a sexual nature, where the Councillor had sent messages to an individual in his personal capacity. The Councillor had demonstrated remorse for his actions but lacked true insight into the impact of his behaviour. The Police also investigated the case, and the Councillor was given a conditional caution for 3 months, which was not published. The Case Tribunal had decided that in a small community everybody was aware of the decision and therefore it was not necessary for the matter to have been published.

The second case involved an individual who was disqualified for 3 years. The Ombudsman investigated a total of 9 incidents of predatory behaviour, which had taken place over a long period of time. Intervention by the Monitoring Officer and Social Services had taken place before the Police investigated the case. The Councillor's concerning behaviour did not stop, and he took his behaviour lightly, which was not well received by the Tribunal. An Interim Tribunal was set up (due to the nature of the behaviour), as it was felt that there was a risk to the public in this case, and the individual was disqualified for 6 months while the investigation was ongoing. The Councillor resigned from both his Councillor roles, prior to the matter concluding – but, on this occasion, it did not affect the outcome.

RESOLVED: -

- To note the content of the case summaries presented in the report.
- To add these matters to the previous item's actions as regards informing members of lessons to be learned to get a full picture of events.

Action: See Resolution above

(Councillor Iorwerth Roberts joined the meeting at 10:55am)

9. APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATIONS

No report was presented, as it was noted that no applications for dispensations have been received during the period since the last meeting of the Standards Committee and the date of publishing this agenda.

10. UPDATE FROM THE NATIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE FORUM FOR WALES

Submitted – an update report by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer on the Forum's last two meetings, which were attended by the Chair of the Standards Committee's on 24 June 2024 and 27 January 2025.

The Legal Service Manager reported that the Standards Committee has received a copy of the Chair's notes following both Forum meetings. The Chair welcomed any comments by the Standards Committee members on the main points raised in his notes from the meetings.

The Chair stated that he will be attending the next Forum meeting on 23 June 2025 and will report back to the next meeting of the Standards Committee.

RESOLVED to note the content of the report.

Action: None

11. REVIEW BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE OF THE REGISTERS OF INTERESTS OF ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

Submitted – a report by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer on the above. At its meeting on 18 June 2024, the Standards Committee agreed that a further report be present to the Committee's next meeting.

The Legal Services Manager referred to the general report, which included the main issues that arose from the review process, which the Committee discussed at its last meeting. The Chair of the Standards Committee presented the report to Group Leaders in July last year, and it was shared with members in August 2024.

With reference to technical and corporate issues, the Standards Committee wrote to the Chief Executive in May 2024 detailing the corporate issues identified by the independent members whilst undertaking the review. The Chief Executive has provided an update on the work programme that had been developed to respond to the matters raised, highlighting the good progress that had been achieved. An update on the work programme has been provided by the Head of Democracy in his report in Item 4 on today's agenda and confirms the two ICT issues that remain. It was noted that these issues were also raised by the Standards Committee during its last review.

The Committee endorsed the need to have the necessary ICT software for members to fulfil their duties effectively and encouraged every effort to be made to resolve the matters identified.

RESOLVED: -

- **To note the content of the report and its enclosures.**
- **That the Standards Committee support developments to upgrade the Mod.Gov software for the benefit of members.**
- **To contact ICT to request an update on investing in future Mod.Gov software for the next meeting of the Standards Committee.**

Action: See Resolution above

12. PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES (PSOW) INDEPENDENT REVIEW

Submitted – a report by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer following an independent review by the PSOW to ascertain whether its decision making processes are fit for purpose.

The Legal Services Manager reported that in March last year the Ombudsman had received a substantiated complaint about an inappropriate post on social media published by a member of the PSOW's staff. As a result of this matter, concerns were expressed as to whether the PSOW's decision making was fair and free from political bias.

On that basis, the Ombudsman commissioned an independent review, led by Dr Melissa McCullough, to establish whether the complaints procedures followed by the Ombudsman's Code Team for investigating complaints were robust.

The general findings from the review were published in September 2024 and concluded that the Ombudsman's investigative processes are sound. All decisions are systematic, well documented, based on facts, evidence and free from political bias.

The PSOW noted that the 7 recommendations made in the report were accepted, and the 6 lessons learned would be used to move forward.

RESOLVED to note the content of the review.

Action: None

13. PSOW CONSULTATION REGARDING RECOMMENDATION NUMBER 2 OF THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW

Submitted – a report by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer on a consultation paper published in relation to recommendation 2 of the PSOW's independent review (discussed at Item 12).

The Legal Services Manager reported that the recommendation leads on from the PSOW's Consultation in the previous item. It refers to the PSOW's current practice of not notifying an Accused Member of a complaint against them until it has been assessed.

It was noted that currently Accused Members are only aware of any complaints made against them when an initial assessment has been concluded by the Ombudsman. Dr McCullough concluded in her report that to be fair and transparent, the Ombudsman should revert to the previous arrangement of informing the Accused Member earlier, at the time a complaint is presented to the Ombudsman. The Standards Committee agreed with Dr McCullough's proposal.

Correspondence in relation to the Ombudsman's consultation was sent to elected and co-opted members of the Council and the Clerks of Town and Community Councils for their comment. The Standards Committee had received two responses and discussed these as part of an informal meeting. The Standards Committee Chair attended a meeting of Group Leaders to present the Standards Committee's view and obtain their opinion. A letter detailing all the views ascertained was sent by the Standards Committee Chair before the deadline of 31 January 2025.

The Monitoring Officer will inform the Standard Committee of the PSOW's decision following consultation when it is published.

RESOLVED: -

- **That the Standards Committee notes the content of the report.**
- **That the Chair of the Standards Committee's correspondence is shared with the Standards Committee.**
- **That the Monitoring Officer advises the Standards Committee of the outcome of the PSOW's consultation once it is published.**
- **That the Chair of the Standards Committee informs elected and co-opted members of the County Council and Town and Community Council members of the PSOW's decision on its arrangements regarding notifying an Accused Member of a complaint against them.**

Action: See Resolution above

14. LOCAL RESOLUTION PROTOCOLS (LRPs) ADOPTED BY AUTHORITIES IN WALES

Submitted – a report by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer detailing the work undertaken by the PSOW in relation to different Local Resolution Protocols that have been adopted by authorities in Wales.

The Monitoring Officer reported that every local authority is expected to adopt a Protocol to deal with low level and trivial complaints which do not breach the Code. She stated that the County Council has its own Protocol, which has been updated three times since its adoption.

The PSOW has collected the current LRPs from the Welsh Authorities and received legal opinion on principles included in the Protocols. A mapping process has been undertaken by the Monitoring Officer to compare the current County Council's LRP with the principles obtained in the legal opinion.

As a result, the Standards Committee was advised to consider amending the Council's LRP, included in Enclosure 1, in accordance with the two recommendations noted in Enclosure 2.

RESOLVED that: -

- **The Standards Committee notes the principles in paragraph 2 of the report.**
- **The Standards Committee shares the Ombudsman's principles with Group Leaders to assist them in their duties to promote and maintain high standards of conduct and assist members in both their understanding of (i) the LRP; and (ii) the other processes available to members in the event concerns arise relating to members' standards of conduct.**
- **The recommended amendments to the LRP set out in Enclosure 2 are referred by the Monitoring Officer to the Group Leaders for their review and consideration, alongside a recommendation from the Standards Committee that the amendments are accepted.**
- **The Standards Committee requests an update from the Monitoring Officer at the next Standards Committee meeting on matters relating to:**
 - **Whether the recommended amendments to the LRP have been agreed by the Group Leaders;**
 - **Whether the form of the LRP, following discussions with the Group Leaders, has been updated; and**
 - **Whether any further consequential amendments to Council procedures or documentation are required to be considered by the Standards Committee to reflect any agreed changes to the LRP and the legal opinion obtained by the PSOW as reported on.**

Action: See Resolution above

15. STANDARDS COMMITTEE HEARINGS PROCESS

Submitted – a report by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer on work that has been undertaken to adapt the hearing process for referrals from the PSOW for alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct breaches.

The Legal Services Manager reported that in Summer 2024 there were three complaints under investigation by the Ombudsman. On that basis, these could be referred back to the Standards Committee for determination. External training on conducting hearings was undertaken in September 2024. The trainer recommended some changes to the process.

The Legal Service Manager stated that those changes detailed in the report have been made to the hearing process, and these have received a positive response from the Committee when shared on 29 November 2024 and will need to be confirmed formally.

RESOLVED that:

- **The Standards Committee agrees with the adoption of the process included in Enclosure 1 as a procedure to determine complaints about members misconduct.**

- **Arrangements are made for the publication of this revised process, as applicable.**

Action: See Resolution above

16. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED to adopt the following: -

“Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, to exclude the press and public from the meeting during discussion on the following item on the grounds that it may involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of the said Act and in the attached Public Interest Test.”

17. CONDUCT COMPLAINTS TO THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES (PSOW)

Submitted – a report by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer on conduct complaints to the PSOW, which the Ombudsman has decided not to investigate.

The Monitoring Officer reported that redacted versions of the four decision notices received from the Ombudsman during quarters 1-3 of 2024/25 (presented as data only in Item 6 on today’s agenda) are shared with the Standards Committee. The cases are matters where the Ombudsman has decided not to investigate due to lack of evidence of a breach of the Code of Conduct. The Ombudsman has confirmed that the decision notices are to be shared with the Standards Committee confidentially, so as to assist the Committee with its duty to promote high standards of conduct among members.

RESOLVED that the Standards Committee notes the content of the report and enclosures.

Action: None

The meeting concluded at 12:00pm

**MR TREFOR OWEN
CHAIR**

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2025

PRESENT: **Independent Members**

Mr Trefor Owen (Chair)
Mr Brace Griffiths (Vice-Chair)
Mr T Rhys Davies
Mr John R Jones
Mrs Gill Murgatroyd

Representing the County Council

Councillor Margaret Murley Roberts
Councillor Dafydd Rhys Thomas

IN ATTENDANCE: Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer
Legal Services Manager (MY)
Committee Officer (SC)

APOLOGIES: None

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Margaret Murley Roberts and Councillor Dafydd Rhys Thomas wished it to be recorded that they had considered, and taken legal advice, on whether they were required to declare an interest in relation to agenda Item 3. Both Councillors have a professional working relationship with the Councillor who is the subject of the report at agenda item 3. However, they both concluded that the relationship did not reach the level of a close personal association within the meaning of the Members' Code of Conduct and that they would participate in agenda Item 3 there being no requirement to declare an interest nor to withdraw from consideration of the item.

2. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED to adopt the following: -

“Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, to exclude the press and public from the meeting during discussion on the following item on the grounds that it may involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of the said Act and in the attached Public Interest Test.”

3. INITIAL DETERMINATION OF COMPLAINT REFERRED BY THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES TO THE MONITORING OFFICER FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL'S STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Submitted – a report by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer to decide whether a complaint referred to the Standards Committee by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales demonstrated either, that: -

- (i) “there is no evidence of any failure to comply with the Code of Conduct; or
- (ii) the matter must go to a local hearing to enable the Member to make representations, orally or in writing, in respect of the findings of the investigation and any allegation that the Member has failed, or may have failed, to comply with the Code of Conduct”.

Having considered the Monitoring Officer’s report, and the report of the PSOW’s Investigating Officer, the Standards Committee unanimously agreed that the complaint should be the subject of a local hearing and passed the following resolution: -

RESOLVED: -

- **That that matter be referred to a local hearing of the Committee so as to enable the relevant Member to make representations, orally or in writing, in respect of the findings of the investigation and any allegation that the Member has failed, or may have failed, to comply with the Code of Conduct.**
- **That the Monitoring Officer conducts the Pre-Hearing process in accordance with the Procedure.**

The meeting concluded at 2:15 pm

**MR TREFOR OWEN
CHAIR**

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Committee:	Standards Committee
Date:	12 June 2025
Title of report:	Democratic Services Update
Purpose of report:	To update the Committee on the work of the service in relation to member support and governance.
Author:	Dyfan Sion, Head of Democratic Services

Background

1. This report provides an update to the Committee on issues of democratic governance as discussed at its meeting on 6 February and on other related matters.

Improvement plan

2. An improvement plan was developed to address the democratic issues raised by the Standards Committee while conducting a review of member registers in 2024. A copy of the improvement plan was shared with the Committee last year and an update on progress was given to the Committee in February.
3. At that time, it was reported that 15 of the 20 actions had been completed and 2 others were continuous. Here is an update on the 3 remaining actions:
 - i) *“Enable Members to complete the Welsh side of the standing register of interests in ModGov if they wish to do so”* - we have applied to the software company for this development. We are the only authority using ModGov that has made such an application, so it will not be treated as a priority. We understand that other nearby authorities do not allow direct access to members and that it is officials who input information on their behalf. In the meantime, our officers will continue to offer to input information on behalf of members in order to mitigate any impact.
 - ii) *“Enable Members to complete their registration of interest form during on-line meetings”* – members can complete the form on paper or electronically and return it to the committee clerk. Members are reminded of the need to complete the form by the chair of each committee at the

beginning of meetings, and the response has been positive this year with forms being returned on time.

- iii) *"Linking webcasts to agenda items"* – completed.

Elected Member Annual Reports 24/25

- 4. A template and guidance were shared with members for completing their annual report on 24 March, and regular reminder messages have been shared since then. The reports were originally requested by May, and we have granted an extension until 6 June.
- 5. To date, 22 reports have been received, compared to 26 received for 23/24. It is likely that one or two additional reports will reach us over the next few days. We will publish the reports on the Council's website in the usual way by the end of June.

Register of interests

- 6. Members are reminded of the need to update their registers within 28 working days of any change in circumstances.
- 7. Members are also required to complete the register and an additional form containing interests of close family members for the purposes of the Council's annual accounts. That work is currently ongoing and the vast majority of members have completed the process.

Annual development conversations and training records

- 8. Quarterly updates on member training are sent to the relevant group leaders. This facilitates the monitoring of attendance at training, particularly mandatory training. The first quarterly update for 25/26 will be sent to group leaders during July. Information about members' attendance in committees will also be shared with leaders on a quarterly basis from now on.
- 9. An annual conversation template was shared with group leaders during the end of February. The purpose of the template was to provide a structure for conducting an annual development review with the members of their groups. The leaders were asked to provide any information about training needs that came out of the conversations, so that it could be included in the member development plan for 25/26. We received information from two group leaders.

Recommendation

- 10. The Committee is asked to note the content of the report.

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
MEETING:	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
DATE:	12 JUNE 2025
TITLE OF THE REPORT:	MEMBER DEVELOPMENT
REPORT BY:	LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
CONTACT OFFICER:	ELEN PRITCHARD
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:	TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES FOR ELECTED MEMBERS

1. BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Standards Committee on members' training and development issues, since the report presented in February 2025 giving an overview of the provision offered to our Elected Members over the last period.

2. THE PLAN

As you will be aware, the set learning plan for our Elected Members has been divided into the following specific headings; **Mandatory training; General; Health and Wellbeing; On-demand and e-Learning modules**. With these specific headings in mind, we offer an update below on the training provision from April 2023 to date.

A total of 55 learning and development opportunities were offered to Elected Members by the Learning and Development Team. Full details are included in Appendix 1.

Please see the update below on the training that has been designated as mandatory (as outlined by the Democratic Services), and their corresponding attendance levels;

Code of Conduct	35/35
Health and Safety	33/35
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion	31/35
Data Protection	29/35
Cybersecurity	34/35
Safeguarding	29/35

The expectation is that all Members attend these titles as a minimum and that any further training/events are available to support these key titles.

Work continues to progress on maximising the completion figures for these titles.

3. DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR GROUP LEADERS

Following approval by this Committee, progress has been made in implementing the Plan in question. As an update;

- All of our Group Leaders have completed a DiSC Profile (personality profile type) and where relevant have undertaken a 1:1 Analysis Session with an independent trainer.
- Dates for proceeding with the second phase, a series of formal coaching sessions, have been shared in order to implement this aspect of the scheme.

Please note that provision has been made to ensure that the above activities are available bilingually and to follow in the individual's preferred language.

Furthermore, and as relevant we will continue to take every opportunity to refer our Elected Members to the further provision available from the WLGA and Academi Cymru.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

The close collaboration between the Learning and Development Team and the Democratic Service and any other relevant Officers in the Authority continues to prove effective. Thus, ensuring that any plan addresses the needs of the Elected Members and continues to evolve as required.

Invitations to attend training continue to be shared through the usual arrangements via *the MemberSupport* email address, as well as invitations via direct electronic calendar appointments.

Quarterly reports are shared with the Democratic Services, which are then shared with Group Leaders. These reports will include details of mandatory training and all other training completed within that particular quarter.

5. METHODS OF PROVISION

Overall, the sessions are held as classroom sessions, the recent development to be offering some virtual sessions continues with a further option where appropriate and relevant to be recording sessions for further use. Please note,

that the delivery method is dependent on the topic in question as well as which method is offered/preferred by the Training provider.

Elected Members continue to be offered the option of attending a session within a normal working day or an early evening session to ensure that the commitments of the Elected Members are taken into account along with increasing attendance at sessions.

In line with what was reported in February, sessions are now being held as separate Welsh and English monolingual sessions, this being so as to align with the Corporate arrangement for staff. However, this arrangement is contingent on being able to ensure healthy attendance levels for the sessions held.

6. TO SUMMARISE

The plan in question continues to be an evolving one and is continuously reviewed and amended as required, e.g. following changes in Legislation; Procedures; External issues etc. This will ensure that we are able to respond to the identified needs and ensure timely provision.

7. RECOMMENDATION

To note the content of the report.

Cynnig hyfforddiant a datblygiad i Aelodau Etholedig 2023 - 2025

Training and Development offered to Elected Members 2023 - 2025

Teitl y Cwrs	Mynychwyd / Attended	Gwahoddwyd / Invited	Course Title
Côd Ymddygiad	1	1	Code of Conduct
Côd Ymddygiad	2	2	Code of Conduct
Côd Ymddygiad	3	3	Code of Conduct
Cyfansoddiad y Cyngor	1	1	Council Constitution
Delio gyda'r Wasg	3	8	Dealing with the Press
Diogelu i Aelodau	6	14	Safeguarding for Members
Sesiwn Sgiliau TGCh 1-i-1	3	3	1-to-1 ICT Skills Session
Sesiwn Sgiliau TGCh 1-i-1	2	3	1-to-1 ICT Skills Session
Sesiwn Sgiliau TGCh 1-i-1	2	2	1-to-1 ICT Skills Session
Sesiwn Sgiliau TGCh 1-i-1	2	3	1-to-1 ICT Skills Session
Sesiwn Sgiliau TGCh 1-i-1	2	3	1-to-1 ICT Skills Session
Sesiwn Sgiliau TGCh 1-i-1	0	1	1-to-1 ICT Skills Session
Ymwybyddiaeth Ofalgar x2 (<i>agored i bawb</i>)	0	35	Mindfulness Awareness x2 (<i>open to all</i>)
Ymwybyddiaeth Menopos (<i>agored i bawb</i>)	0	35	Menopause Awareness (<i>open to all</i>)
Sgiliau Cadeirio	1	2	Chairing Skills
Sgiliau Cadeirio	3	3	Chairing Skills
Sgiliau Craffu Effeithiol	1	1	Principles of Effective Scrutiny
Cyflwyniad i Newid Hinsawdd	11	26	Introduction to Climate Change
Cyflwyniad i Newid Hinsawdd	4	21	Introduction to Climate Change
Cyflwyniad i Newid Hinsawdd	3	19	Introduction to Climate Change
Cyflwyniad i Newid Hinsawdd	3	12	Introduction to Climate Change
Cydraddoldeb, Amrywiaeth a Chynhwysiant	0	4	Equality, Diversity & Inclusion
Diogelu Data	6	13	Data Protection
Diogelu Data	8	12	Data Protection
Ymwybyddiaeth Diogelu i Aelodau	9	15	Safeguarding Awareness for Members
Ymwybyddiaeth Diwylliannol Sipsiwn a Theithwyr	13	30	Gypsies and Travellers' Cultural Awareness
Ymwybyddiaeth Twyll a Llygredd	12	44	Fraud and Corruption
Ymwybyddiaeth Twyll a Llygredd	4	44	Fraud and Corruption
Beth mae'n ei olygu i fod yn Ynys sy'n Wybodus am Drawma?	5	11	What does it mean to be a Trauma Informed Island
	2	2	Cyber Security Video
Arweinyddiaeth Gymunedol Flaengar I Gynghorwyr	1	1	Progressive Community Leadership Training
Cydraddoldeb, Amrywiaeth a Chynhwysiant	0	4	Equality, Diversity & Inclusion
Iechyd a Diogelwch i Aelodau	7	20	Health & Safety for Members

Iechyd a Diogelwch i Aelodau	4	20	Health & Safety for Members
Gwrth-Hiliaeth			Anti Racism
Gwrth-Hiliaeth	9	35	Anti Racism
Grŵp 6: Cryfhau Arweinyddiaeth	9	35	Group 6: Strengthening Leadership
(VAWDASV)	9	35	(VAWDASV)
Rhentu Doeth Cymru	2	10	Rent Smart Wales
Grŵp 6: Cryfhau Arweinyddiaeth	16	6	Group 6: Strengthening Leadership
(VAWDASV)			(VAWDASV)
Cynllunio i Aelodau	34	26	Planning for Members
Gwrandawiadau'r Pwyllgor Safonau ar y	10	6	Standards Committee's Code of Conduct
Côd Ymddygiad			Hearings
Cynllunio - Cyfarwyddyd Erthygl 4	33	23	Planning - Article 4 Direction
Iechyd a Diogelwch i Aelodau	9	9	Health and Safety for Members
Diogelu Data (cwrs staff yn agored i bawb)	6	4	Data Protection (staff course open to all)
Cydraddoldeb, Amrywiaeth a Chynhwysiant	5	0	Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (Welsh staff
(cwrs Cymraeg i staff, wedi agor i bawb)			course opened to all)
Cydraddoldeb, Amrywiaeth a Chynhwysiant	5	1	Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (English staff
(cwrs Saesneg i staff, wedi agor i bawb)			course opened to all)
Seibrddiogelwch i Aelodau	1	1	Cyber Security for Members
Craffu ar y Gyllideb: Edrych Ymlaen	-	2	Budget Scrutiny: Looking Forward
Seibrddiogelwch i Aelodau	1	1	Cyber Security for Members
Sesiwn 'Cyber Ninjas' i Gynghorwyr	35	7	'Cyber Ninjas' session for Councillors
Dangos Effaith - Gofyn y cwestiwn 'felly	-	3	Demonstrating Impact - Asking the 'so what'
beth'			question
Ymwybyddiaeth o'r Iaith Gymraeg	1	1	Welsh Language Awareness
Gweithdy Cyfathrebu a Chydweithio (DiSC®)	2	2	Communication and Collaboration workshop
			(DiSC®)
Gweithdy Cyfathrebu a Chydweithio (DiSC®)	1	1	Communication and Collaboration workshop
			(DiSC®)
Gweithdy Cyfathrebu a Chydweithio (DiSC®)	1	1	Communication and Collaboration workshop
			(DiSC®)
Cyflwyniad i Newid Hinsawdd (cwrs staff yn	-	1	Introduction to Climate Change (staff course
agored i bawb)			open to all)

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CYNGOR SIR YNYS MON / ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
COMMITTEE:	Standards Committee
DATE:	12 th June 2025
REPORT TITLE:	Conduct Complaints to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW)
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:	To advise the Committee of the complaints which have been sent to the PSOW in relation to local (a) County Councillors and (b) Town and Community Councillors.
REPORT BY:	Mared Wyn Yaxley Legal Services Manager mwyys@ynysmon.llyw.cymru
LINK OFFICER:	Lynn Ball Director of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer lbxcs@ynysmon.llyw.cymru

1. INTRODUCTION

The Standards Committee is provided with an update every quarter on the complaints which have been received by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) in relation to (a) County Councillors and (b) Town / Community Councillors.

2. UPDATES

- 2.1 A copy of the report for Quarter 4 for 2024/2025 in relation to County Councillors, appears at **Enclosure 1**.
- 2.2 A copy of the report for Quarter 4 for 2024/2025 in relation to Town and Community Councillors, appears at **Enclosure 2**.

3. COUNTY COUNCILLORS

- 3.1 There is currently one case being investigated by the PSOW in relation to a County Councillor; it was received in February 2024.
- 3.2 Another case involving a different County Councillor, which was sent to the PSOW in August 2023, has been investigated by the PSOW and sent to the Standards Committee. The Standards Committee has conducted a Local Hearing; details of the Hearing, including the Standards Committee's public decision, are available on this [link](#).

4. TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS

- 4.1 There is currently one case being investigated by the PSOW in relation to a Community Councillor. It was received in January 2024.

5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 For the Standards Committee members to note the contents of the **Enclosures at 1-2.**

ENCLOSURES:

1	Complaint report for Quarter 4 for 2024/2025 in relation to County Councillors.
2	Complaint report for Quarter 4 for 2024/2025 in relation to Town and Community Councillors.

**CWYNION A GYFLWYNWYD I'R OMBWDSMON – “O” – AC YMCHWILIADAU A WNAED GANDDO YNGHYLCH
CYNGHORWYR CYNGOR SIR YNYS MÔN - DIWEDDARIAD**

**UP TO DATE COMPLAINTS TO AND INVESTIGATIONS BY THE OMBUDSMAN – “O” -REGARDING
ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCILLORS – UPDATE**

Chwarter 4 (Ionawr – Mawrth 2025) – 2024/2025 – Quarter 4 (January – March 2025)

Enw'r Cyngorydd Name of Councillor	Enw'r Achwynydd Name of Complainant	Cyfeirnod y Ffeil File Reference (i) Un ni/Ours (ii) “O”	Dyddiad y Gŵyn - “O” Complaint date - “O”	Canlyniad Ymholiad “O” a'r dyddiad neu'r sefyllfa gyfredol Result of “O” Investigation and date or the current situation
Cyngorydd Sir / County Councillor	Aelod / Member	024922 202302251	Gohebiaeth gyntaf gan O / First correspondence received from O: 09.08.2023	O wedi anfon ei adroddiad at sylw'r Pwyllgor Safonau a threfnir gwrandawriad lleol gan y Pwyllgor / O has sent its report for the attention of the Standards Committee and a local hearing will be held by the Committee
Cyngorydd Sir / County Councillor	Aelod / Member	025515 202307670	Gohebiaeth gyntaf gan O / First correspondence received from O: 08.02.2024	O yn parhau i ymchwilio'r gŵyn / O is continuing to investigate the complaint

**CWYNION A GYFLWYNWYD I'R OMBWDSMON – “O” – AC YMCHWILIADAU A WNAED GANDDO YNGHYLCH
CYNGHORWYR CYMUNEDOL A THREF - DIWEDDARIAD**

**UP TO DATE COMPLAINTS TO AND INVESTIGATIONS BY THE OMBUDSMAN – “O” - REGARDING
TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS – UPDATE**

Chwarter 4 (Ionawr – Mawrth 2025) – 2024/2025 – Quarter 4 (January – March 2025)

Enw'r Cynghorydd Name of Councillor	Enw'r Achwynydd Name of Complainant	Cyfeirnod y Ffeil File Reference (i) Un ni/Ours (ii) “O”	Dyddiad y Gŵyn - “O” Complaint date - “O”	Canlyniad Ymholiad “O” a'r dyddiad neu'r sefyllfa gyfredol Result of “O” Investigation and date or the current situation
Cynghorydd Cymuned / Community Councillor Cyngor Cymuned A / Community Council A	Cynghorydd Cymuned / Community Councillor	025514 202307045	Gohebiaeth gyntaf gan O / First correspondence received from O: 07.02.2024	O yn parhau i ymchwilio'r gŵyn / O is continuing to investigate the complaint
Cynghorydd Cymuned / Community Councillor Cyngor Cymuned Ch / Community Council Ch	Cynghorydd Cymuned / Community Councillor	26634 202406969	Gohebiaeth gyntaf gan O / First correspondence received from O: 24.01.2025	O wedi penderfynu na ddylid ymchwilio'r gŵyn / O decided that the complaint should not be investigated

CYNGOR SIR YNYS MON / ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
COMMITTEE:	Standards Committee
DATE:	12 June 2025
REPORT TITLE:	Published findings by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales for all Councils in Wales
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:	To advise the Committee of all Wales findings published on its website by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales for the period between 1 January 2025 and 31 May 2025.
REPORT BY:	Mared Wyn Yaxley Legal Service Manager / Deputy Monitoring Officer mwyys@ynysmon.llyw.cymru
LINK OFFICER:	Lynn Ball Director of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer lbxcs@ynysmon.llyw.cymru

1. INTRODUCTION

This report summarises the information published under the “Our Findings” heading on the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) website for the months of January 2025 to May 2025 in relation to Code of Conduct matters only [ENCLOSURE 1].

2. QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

In addition to the information on the website, the PSOW also publishes quarterly newsletters. The sixth edition of the quarterly newsletter from the PSOW, November 2024 - March 2025 (dated 1 April 2025) can be seen [here](#).

3. BACKGROUND

The PSOW exercises “first sift” powers under Section 69 of the Local Government Act 2000, which requires the PSOW to consider complaints that members of local authorities in Wales may have broken their code of conduct. The PSOW’s jurisdiction includes county councils and town and community councils.

Having received a complaint, the PSOW applies its threshold test to determine whether or not the complaint should be investigated. The threshold test involves the PSOW being satisfied that:

- There is evidence to suggest that the code of conduct may have been breached; and

- That the matter is sufficiently serious for it to be in the public interest for an investigation to be opened.

When an investigation is opened, the PSOW may reach one of four findings under Section 69 of the Local Government Act 2000 which are:

- (1) That there is no evidence that there has been a breach of the authority's code of conduct;
- (2) That no action needs to be taken in respect of the matters that were subject to the investigation;
- (3) That the matter be referred to the authority's monitoring officer for consideration by the standards committee; or
- (4) That the matter be referred to the President of the Adjudication Panel for Wales for adjudication by a tribunal (this generally happens in more serious cases).

If (3) or (4) above apply, the PSOW will then submit its report to the local standards committee or to the Adjudication Panel for Wales (APW), and it is for the committee, or a case tribunal of the APW, to conduct a hearing to consider the evidence and to make the final decision on whether or not the code of conduct has been breached and, if so, whether a penalty should be imposed, and what any penalty should be.

Standards committees have statutory authority to issue a suspension against a councillor for a period not exceeding 6 months. Standards committees have no powers of disqualification and, where there are findings of breach, will try to apply a sanction that is proportionate to the offence. This will often be a censure (public rebuke) or a recommendation of training/undertaking/mediation etc.

A case tribunal has authority to suspend a councillor for up to 12 months and to disqualify for up to 5 years.

4. RECOMMENDATION

The Chair of the Standards Committee will lead a discussion on any matters of interest reported in **ENCLOSURE 1**.

ENCLOSURE:

1.	A summary of the information published under the " <u>Our Findings</u> " heading on the <u>Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW)</u> website for the months of January 2025 to the end of May 2025 in relation to Code of Conduct matters only.
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ENCLOSURE 1

Date	Name of Council	Case Reference Number	Links to case on PSOW's website	Report Type – Subject	Report Type – Outcome	Commentary / Points to note:
15/01/2025	Llansteffan and Llanybri Community Council	202306358	<u>Disclosure and registration of interests : Llansteffan and Llanybri Community Council - Public Services Ombudsman for Wales</u>	Disclosure & registration of interest	No action necessary	<p>The Ombudsman received a complaint that a former Member had breached the Code of Conduct by failing to declare his personal and prejudicial interests in Council business relating to village green matters when he attended a Village Green Committee meeting and a Council meeting.</p> <p>The Ombudsman's view was that the former Member ought to have declared his interest in Village Green matters, left the meeting when the period for public participation ended and not further participated in discussions. The failure to do so was suggestive of a breach of paragraphs 11(1), 11(2)(b), 14(1)(a) and 14(1)(e) of the Code.</p> <p>When the Former Member attended the relevant Council meeting, his</p>

Date	Name of Council	Case Reference Number	Links to case on PSOW's website	Report Type – Subject	Report Type – Outcome	Commentary / Points to note:
						<p>interests remained the same. The failure to declare his interest and leave the room when Village Green matters were discussed suggested further breaches of paragraphs 11(1) and 14(1)(a) of the Code.</p> <p>The former Member's lack of experience and training, the absence of any personal gain, harm caused to another or intent to abuse his position to create an advantage for himself or disadvantage others were considered.</p> <p>It was further noted that the outcome of the meetings was unlikely to have been any different had he not been present at the relevant meetings.</p> <p>Shortly afterwards, the Standards Committee granted the former Member a dispensation to</p>

Date	Name of Council	Case Reference Number	Links to case on PSOW's website	Report Type – Subject	Report Type – Outcome	Commentary / Points to note:
						<p>participate in future Village Green matters.</p> <p>The former Member acknowledged their wrongdoing and apologised at interview with the Ombudsman. This, together with the fact that he was no longer a member of the Council, led the Ombudsman to determine that the breaches were not so serious that a referral to the Standards Committee was appropriate or required in the public interest.</p> <p>The Ombudsman decided that no action needed to be taken in respect of the matters investigated.</p>
27/02/2025	Flintshire County Council & Saltney Town Council	202307129 / 202307130	<u>Selflessness & Stewardship : Flintshire County Council - Public Services</u>	Selflessness & Stewardship	No action necessary	The Ombudsman received a complaint alleging that a Member had breached the Code of Conduct by abusing their position and using the resources of their authority improperly. They allegedly

Date	Name of Council	Case Reference Number	Links to case on PSOW's website	Report Type – Subject	Report Type – Outcome	Commentary / Points to note:
			<u>Ombudsman for Wales</u>			<p>requested the delivery of sandbags to their close family member's property during a severe flooding event.</p> <p>The investigation considered whether the evidence gathered was suggestive that paragraphs 7(a) and 7(b) of the Code had been breached and considered whether paragraphs 11 or 14 of the Code had also been breached.</p> <p>The evidence confirmed that the Member had not told Council officers that their reports of flooding or request for the delivery of sandbags related to their close family member's property. However, it also confirmed that the Member did not attempt to apply pressure to obtain preferential treatment for their requests outside of the Council's established emergency protocol. The Ombudsman's view was that</p>

Date	Name of Council	Case Reference Number	Links to case on PSOW's website	Report Type – Subject	Report Type – Outcome	Commentary / Points to note:
						<p>this did <u>not</u> suggest the Member had breached paragraphs 7(a) or 7(b) of the Code.</p> <p>By failing to declare their personal and prejudicial interest in matters which affected the Member's close family member's property, the Ombudsman concluded this was suggestive of some technical breaches of paragraphs 11(2)(a), 11(2)(b), 14(1)(d) and 14(1)(e) of the Code.</p> <p>Based on the evidence, the Ombudsman was not persuaded that the likely breaches of the Code in relation to interests also breached paragraphs 6(1)(a) which relates to disrepute or 7(a) (misuse of position).</p> <p>It was appreciated that this was a crisis situation and that had the Member declared a personal and</p>

Date	Name of Council	Case Reference Number	Links to case on PSOW's website	Report Type – Subject	Report Type – Outcome	Commentary / Points to note:
						<p>prejudicial interest when they contacted the Council, this would have alerted the Council officers to the fact that the requests related to their close family member, and likely have given the perception that they were trying to use their position improperly, and potentially breaching paragraphs 7(a) and/or 7(b) of the Code.</p> <p>On balance, it was determined that any interest breaches were not so serious as they had no detrimental impact on the Complainant or any inappropriate influence on the Council's actions that a referral to the Standards Committee was appropriate in the public interest.</p> <p>The Ombudsman decided that no action needed to be taken in respect of the matters investigated.</p>

Date	Name of Council	Case Reference Number	Links to case on PSOW's website	Report Type – Subject	Report Type – Outcome	Commentary / Points to note:
20/03/2025	Monmouthshire County Council	202401376	<u>Duty to uphold the law : Monmouthshire County Council - Public Services Ombudsman for Wales</u>	Duty to uphold the law	No action necessary	<p>The Ombudsman received a self-referred complaint from a member of the Council, explaining that the Member had failed to observe the Code of Conduct by disclosing potentially sensitive or restricted information during a Council meeting.</p> <p>The Ombudsman determined that investigation was appropriate and that the following paragraphs of the Code were considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5(a) – [members] must not disclose confidential information or information which should reasonably be regarded as being of a confidential nature, without the express consent of a person authorised to give such consent, or unless required by law to do so.

Date	Name of Council	Case Reference Number	Links to case on PSOW's website	Report Type – Subject	Report Type – Outcome	Commentary / Points to note:
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6(1)(a) – [members] must not conduct [themselves] in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing their office or authority into disrepute. <p>The Ombudsman found that the Member's actions in referring to the information without express consent or authorisation to do so (and the resulting publicity arising from this) were suggestive of breaches of the paragraphs of the Code considered.</p> <p>However, the Ombudsman considered that further action, by way of referral to a Standards Committee or the Adjudication Panel for Wales, was not required in the public interest.</p> <p>Public interest factors taken into consideration included the self-reflection, remorse and acceptance</p>

Date	Name of Council	Case Reference Number	Links to case on PSOW's website	Report Type – Subject	Report Type – Outcome	Commentary / Points to note:
						<p>of the potential breaches by the Member. It was also noted that the Member took swift action in recognition of the disclosure which appears to have been based on an ill-judged assumption that the information was in the public domain at the time.</p> <p>The Ombudsman decided that no action needed to be taken in respect of the matters investigated</p>
10/04/2025	Tonyrefail Community Council	202400913	Promotion of equality & respect : Tonyrefail Community Council - Public Services Ombudsman for Wales	Promotion of equality & respect	Discontinued	<p>A member of the public alleged that during a telephone conversation, a Member made a “disability discriminating remark”.</p> <p>The Ombudsman started an investigation to consider paragraphs 4(a) (equality of opportunity), 4(b) (respect and consideration) and 6(1)(a) (disrepute) of the Code of Conduct.</p>

Date	Name of Council	Case Reference Number	Links to case on PSOW's website	Report Type – Subject	Report Type – Outcome	Commentary / Points to note:
						Considering the Complainant's wishes and the information obtained during the investigation, the Ombudsman decided that it was not in the public interest to continue the investigation. The investigation was discontinued.
15/04/2025	Bridgend County Borough Council	202402082	<u>Promotion of equality & respect : Bridgend County Borough Council - Public Services Ombudsman for Wales</u>	Promotion of equality & respect	Discontinued	<p>It was alleged that the Member, in making particular remarks to the press, following a decision which the Council's Standards Committee made about his professional conduct, failed to adhere to the Code of Conduct for members of Local Authorities.</p> <p>The Ombudsman discontinued their investigation, on the basis it was no longer proportionate or in the public interest to investigate further, in light of the subsequent recognition and remorse shown by the Member in related proceedings.</p>

Date	Name of Council	Case Reference Number	Links to case on PSOW's website	Report Type – Subject	Report Type – Outcome	Commentary / Points to note:
23/04/2025	Carmarthenshire County Council	202402415	<u>Promotion of equality & respect : Carmarthenshire County Council - Public Services Ombudsman for Wales</u>	Promotion of equality & respect	No action necessary	<p>The Ombudsman received a complaint that a Member had breached the Code of Conduct during a public election event when he made what was reported as a fascist salute directed toward one of the candidates. The matter was reported in the media and in online articles in the days that followed.</p> <p>An investigation considered whether the Member's conduct was capable of bringing the Council or the role of member into disrepute to be suggestive of a breach of the Code.</p> <p>Having considered the evidence gathered and explanations provided by the Member for his actions, the Ombudsman determined, on balance, that the Member's actions were serious in nature and had the ability to negatively impact the reputation of the Council and the role of member and were likely to</p>

Date	Name of Council	Case Reference Number	Links to case on PSOW's website	Report Type – Subject	Report Type – Outcome	Commentary / Points to note:
						<p>have brought both his office and his authority into disrepute.</p> <p>However, taking into account the Member's actions immediately after the event and wider circumstances including the public interest, the Ombudsman determined that no further action was necessary.</p> <p>The Ombudsman determined that no action needed to be taken in respect of the matters investigated.</p>
24/04/2025	Carmarthenshire County Council	202402627	<u>Promotion of equality & respect : Carmarthenshire County Council - Public Services Ombudsman for Wales</u>	Promotion of equality & respect	No evidence of breach	The Ombudsman received a complaint that a Member had breached the Code of conduct by publicly supporting behaviour of another Member who was alleged to have breached the Code at a public election event and by thereafter failing to deal with the conduct of that Member as a Group Leader.

Date	Name of Council	Case Reference Number	Links to case on PSOW's website	Report Type – Subject	Report Type – Outcome	Commentary / Points to note:
						<p>An investigation considered whether the Member's conduct was capable of bringing the Council or the role of member into disrepute.</p> <p>Having considered the evidence gathered and explanations provided by the Member for his actions, the Ombudsman was not persuaded that there was evidence to suggest that his actions had brought the Council or the role of Member into disrepute.</p> <p>The Ombudsman found no evidence of any failure to comply with the Code.</p>
02/05/2025	Llanharan Community Council	202402082	<u>Disclosure & registration of interest</u> : <u>Llanharan Community Council - Public Services</u>	Disclosure & registration of interest	No action necessary	The Complainant, a Clerk to the Council, was concerned that despite his advice, the Member had failed to declare personal and prejudicial interests in Council meetings when

Date	Name of Council	Case Reference Number	Links to case on PSOW's website	Report Type – Subject	Report Type – Outcome	Commentary / Points to note:
			<u>Ombudsman for Wales</u>			<p>discussing a specific Council project.</p> <p>The Ombudsman found evidence that was suggestive of failures to declare such interests in breach of the Code of Conduct for Members of Local Authorities.</p> <p>However, as the Member: appeared in the end to recognise her interests were problematic, albeit late in the day; had resigned from the Council; had not sought to hide her interests; did not gain personally, along with her explanations as to why she had not understood her interests were personal and prejudicial, no further action was taken. Advice was provided to the member.</p>
02/05/2025	Conwy Town Council	202401427	<u>Promotion of equality & respect : Conwy Town Council -</u>	Promotion of equality & respect	No evidence of breach	It was alleged that the Member made a remark to the Complainant and his husband, in a private setting in a local public house, which the

Date	Name of Council	Case Reference Number	Links to case on PSOW's website	Report Type – Subject	Report Type – Outcome	Commentary / Points to note:
			<u>Public Services Ombudsman for Wales</u>			<p>Complainant considered was discriminatory and not in keeping with the standards of conduct expected of local councillors.</p> <p>The Ombudsman found that a heated exchange had taken place between councillors and the Complainant and his husband. Because the incident took place outside of a Council setting the Code of Conduct did not generally apply.</p> <p>The Ombudsman did consider whether the Member's remarks could reasonably be viewed as bringing their office as member, or their authority, into disrepute, even though they were made in a context outside of their work for the Council.</p> <p>No evidence was found to suggest the Member's remark was discriminatory in nature, nor was</p>

Date	Name of Council	Case Reference Number	Links to case on PSOW's website	Report Type – Subject	Report Type – Outcome	Commentary / Points to note:
						there any evidence suggestive of any breach of the Code.
09/05/2025	Bridgend Town Council	202401510	<u>Disclosure & registration of interest : Bridgend Town Council - Public Services Ombudsman for Wales</u>	Disclosure & registration of interest	Discontinued	<p>It was alleged that a Member of the Council failed to declare personal and prejudicial interests during a council meeting.</p> <p>The Ombudsman started an investigation to consider paragraphs 7(a), 10(2)(c), 11(1), 12(1) and 14(1) of the Code of Conduct (“the Code”). Information was obtained from the Council. The Complainant was interviewed.</p> <p>In determining whether it would be in the public interest to continue with the investigation, the Ombudsman considered the relevant factors including whether it was likely that if any breach of the Code were to be found whether any sanction is likely to be imposed.</p>

Date	Name of Council	Case Reference Number	Links to case on PSOW's website	Report Type – Subject	Report Type – Outcome	Commentary / Points to note:
						<p>As the Member had already been disqualified from being or becoming a member of the Council for a set period, even if a breach of the Code were to be found, no greater sanction than the disqualification already in place would likely be imposed on the member for a breach of this nature. Therefore, on balance, the Ombudsman considered that it would be a disproportionate use of resources to continue the investigation.</p> <p>The investigation was discontinued.</p>
16/05/2025	Llandudno Town Council	202203847	<u>Promotion of equality and respect : Llandudno Town Council - Public Services Ombudsman for Wales</u>	Promotion of equality and respect	No action necessary	It was alleged that the Former Member of Llandudno Town Council had bullied and harassed the Complainant, a fellow colleague, and that he also failed to treat her with respect and had acted in a way which brought his office as member,

Date	Name of Council	Case Reference Number	Links to case on PSOW's website	Report Type – Subject	Report Type – Outcome	Commentary / Points to note:
						<p>and the local authority, into disrepute.</p> <p>The Ombudsman found that the Former Member had sent some unpleasant communications by letter, texts and on social media to/about the Complainant.</p> <p>The Ombudsman found that the Former Member's behaviour was suggestive of breaches of the Code.</p> <p>While such matters would ordinarily be referred to the Local Authority's Standards Committee to determine any breaches and sanction, on this occasion, given the particular personal circumstances of the Former Member, the Ombudsman decided it was not be in the public interest to pursue matters further.</p>

CYNGOR SIR YNYS MON / ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
COMMITTEE:	Standards Committee
DATE:	12 June 2025
REPORT TITLE:	Adjudication Panel for Wales Decisions
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:	To provide information about the matters considered by the Adjudication Panel for Wales and published between 1 January 2025 and 31 May 2025
REPORT BY:	Mared Wyn Yaxley Legal Services Manager / Deputy Monitoring Officer mwycs@ynysmon.llyw.cymru
LINK OFFICER:	Lynn Ball Director of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer lbxcs@ynysmon.llyw.cymru

1. INTRODUCTION

The Adjudication Panel for Wales (APW) was established by the Local Government Act 2000. It has two statutory functions:

1. To form case tribunals, or interim case tribunals, to consider reports from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) following investigations by the PSOW into allegations that a member has failed to comply with their authority's code of conduct; and
2. To consider appeals from members against the decisions of their own authority's standards committee that they have breached the code of conduct (as well as deciding if permission will be given to appeal in the first instance).

This report includes decisions published by the APW during the period 1 January 2025 until 31 May 2025. It is intended as a factual summary of the matters decided by the APW. The reported cases for the relevant period are currently available on the APW website.

2. SUMMARY OF THE RELEVANT CASES

A summary of the relevant cases is detailed in **ENCLOSURE 1**.

Decisions made:

- APW/001/2024-025/CT: Former Councillor Freya Bletsoe | The Adjudication Panel for Wales
- APW/003/2024-025/AT: Former Councillor Gareth Baines | The Adjudication Panel for Wales
- APW/008/2023-024/AT: Councillor Steven Bletsoe | The Adjudication Panel for Wales

3. RECOMMENDATION

To note the content of the case summaries.

ENCLOSURE:

1.	A summary of the cases published on the <u>Adjudication Panel for Wales (APW) website</u> for the period from 1 January 2025 – 31 May 2025.
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ENCLOSURE 1

Summary of Cases before the Adjudication Panel for Wales: January 2025 – May 2025

Link to case	Name	Relevant Authority	Nature of allegation	Date	Tribunal decision	Points of interest arising:
References from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales						
APW/001/2024-025/CT: Former Councillor Freya Bletsoe The Adjudication Panel for Wales	Councillor Freya Bletsoe	Bridgend Town Council	<p>Breaches of paragraphs 4(b) and 4(c) of the Code of Conduct: <i>“You must... (b) show respect and consideration for others; (c) not use bullying behaviour or harass any person”.</i></p> <p>Breaches of paragraphs 6(1)(a) and 6(1)(d) of the Code of Conduct: <i>“You must: (a) not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or authority into disrepute...</i></p>	Report dated 6 February 2025	Disqualification for 21 months	<p>The Tribunal considered six incidents of reported behaviour that was alleged to have breached the Council’s Code of Conduct.</p> <p>The Tribunal concluded that in relation to Incidents 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 - together in the context of the broader history and relationship between the Respondent and the Clerk - there was sufficient evidence of a pattern of behaviour towards the Clerk to justify a finding under paragraph 4 (c) in relation to those incidents together, in addition to finding in respect of Incident 4.</p> <p>Therefore, a finding that the Respondent had breached the requirement not to use bullying</p>

Link to case	Name	Relevant Authority	Nature of allegation	Date	Tribunal decision	Points of interest arising:
			<i>(d) not make vexatious, malicious or frivolous complaints against other members or anyone who works for, or on behalf of, your authority."</i>			<p>behaviour or harass any person was reported.</p> <p>It was also highlighted by the Tribunal that the Respondent persistently failed to engage constructively with the process, noting that she <i>"ignored deadlines, provided inconsistent medical evidence, and continued serving as a Bridgend County Borough Councillor despite claiming incapacity,"</i> which the Panel described as <i>"disingenuous."</i></p> <p>When determining the appropriate sanctions, the Tribunal noted that it could not take "no action" in relation to the breaches. The breaches were too numerous (10) and, whilst not <i>"the worst that the Tribunal had seen, they were certainly not technical"</i>. The Tribunal concluded that the Respondent had behaved either intentionally or recklessly and the Clerk had been caused significant upset. As defined within paragraph 36</p>

Link to case	Name	Relevant Authority	Nature of allegation	Date	Tribunal decision	Points of interest arising:
						<p>of the Sanctions Guidance, there had been “<i>systematic harassment</i>”.</p> <p>Various mitigating and aggravating factors were considered by the Tribunal – these are reported in paragraphs 5.2.4 and 5.2.2 of the decision report.</p> <p>As the Respondent was no longer a member of the Town Council, no purpose was served by a suspension. The Tribunal therefore considered that the appropriate sanction to apply was that of disqualification.</p> <p><u>However</u>, whilst the councillor was disqualified from her role as a Town Councillor, the Tribunal did not consider it appropriate to apply the disqualification to the Respondent's role as a councillor within Bridgend County Borough Council in the absence of any evidence to suggest</p>

Link to case	Name	Relevant Authority	Nature of allegation	Date	Tribunal decision	Points of interest arising:
						that she was not fulfilling that role appropriately and professionally.
Appeals against Standards Committee decisions						
<u>APW/003/2024-025/AT: Former Councillor Gareth Baines The Adjudication Panel for Wales</u>	Former Cllr Gareth Baines	Wrexham County Borough Council and Chirk Town Council	Breach of paragraph 7(a) of the Code of Conduct. [Appeal refused – out of time – no details reported]	Report dated 3 January 2025	Appeal Refused	<p>The Standards Committee of Wrexham County Borough Council reached a finding that the Appellant breached the Code of Conduct of the Chirk Town Council on 13 November 2024, and the Notice of Decision emailed and posted to the Appellant on 18 November 2024.</p> <p>The Appellant made an application for permission to appeal, but this was received by the APW after the 21 day appeal window provided for in the legislation¹.</p> <p>The decision notice issued by the APW records that the decision notice was dated 18 November 2024 and marked as sent by email and post. A copy of the decision letter was</p>

¹ Regulation 10 of the Local Government Investigations (Functions of Monitoring Officers and Standards Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2001

Link to case	Name	Relevant Authority	Nature of allegation	Date	Tribunal decision	Points of interest arising:
						<p>provided by the Appellant and he did not deny receiving the decision letter on that date.</p> <p>The decision notice issued confirmed that the application was out of time. There were no provisions within the legislation to grant an extension to the time period of an appeal to be made, and, in any event, no grounds upon which exceptional circumstances could be identified as the cause of the delay in making the application for permission to appeal.</p> <p>No Appeal Tribunal to be convened to consider the Appellants' appeal. Appeal refused.</p>
<u>APW/008/2023-024/AT: Councillor Steven Bletsoe The Adjudication Panel for Wales</u>	Cllr Steven Bletsoe	Bridgend Town Council	Breach of paragraphs 6(1)(a), 7(a), 11(1), 14(1)(a), 14(1)(c) & 14(1)(e) of the Code of Conduct – Appeal in	Report dated 3 January 2025	To refer the matter back to the Bridgend County Borough Council Standards Committee with a	An Appeal Tribunal was convened by the President of the APW to consider an appeal by the Appellant against the decision of the Standards Committee of Bridgend County and

Link to case	Name	Relevant Authority	Nature of allegation	Date	Tribunal decision	Points of interest arising:
			relation to sanctions only.		recommendation that the Appellant should be suspended for 10 weeks.	<p>Borough Council which had been convened on 9 of May 2024.</p> <p>The Standards Committee had found that the Appellant had breached paragraphs 6(1)(a), 7(a), 11(1), 14(1)(a), 14(1)(c) and 14(1)(e) of the Code of Conduct and should receive a sanction of six months' suspension.</p> <p>The Appeal Tribunal reported that as part of the submissions made, the Appellant accepted that there had been a Code breach but could not accept the level of sanction, which he felt to be egregious. This was the focus of the appeal and the <u>APW issued a direction that the appeal would proceed in relation to sanctions only</u>. The APW decided that the appeal in relation to the breach of the Code of Conduct element had no reasonable prospect of success.</p> <p>The Appeal Tribunal had regard to the submissions made by the parties,</p>

Link to case	Name	Relevant Authority	Nature of allegation	Date	Tribunal decision	Points of interest arising:
						<p>the APW Sanctions Guidance, and to the PSOW Guidance. It also had regard to the purpose of sanctions which is to provide a disciplinary response to breaches of the Code, and to place the sanction on public record, deter future misconduct, promote a culture of compliance and to foster public confidence in local democracy.</p> <p>Firstly, the Appeal Tribunal assessed the seriousness of the Appellant's breaches of the Code with particular regard to the nature, extent, and number of breaches. It did <u>not</u> consider that the breaches comprised of the most serious type of breach typically referred to Standards Committees in Wales.</p> <p>The Appeal Tribunal also noted that the Standards Committee found the Appellant to have been in breach of six paragraphs of the Code. However, these were all in relation to the same</p>

Link to case	Name	Relevant Authority	Nature of allegation	Date	Tribunal decision	Points of interest arising:
						<p>events concerning the minutes of one particular meeting. The Appeal Tribunal did however consider that there had been a pattern of behaviour in terms of there being a repeated failure to declare personal and prejudicial interests.</p> <p>The Tribunal considered that the breaches had been unintentional and had been due to a misguided view of the Code rather than a deliberate breach.</p> <p>The Appeal Tribunal considered the consequences of the breaches for individuals, the wider public and the Council as a whole; as well as the evidence of previous cases supplied by the Appellant, both in the wider political context in Wales and in relation to recent cases which had been before the Council's Standards Committee and where breaches had been more serious, and yet the</p>

Link to case	Name	Relevant Authority	Nature of allegation	Date	Tribunal decision	Points of interest arising:
						<p>sanction imposed had been less harsh than that imposed in this case.</p> <p>The Appeal Tribunal considered the Sanctions Guidance and concluded that a time-limited form of disciplinary response was appropriate to deter such future action, and to temporarily remove the Appellant from the Relevant Authority to safeguard the standards set by the Code and to reassure the public that standards were being upheld. It noted from Paragraph 39.5 of the Standards Guidance that a suspension of less than a month was unlikely to meet the objectives of the sanctions' regime.</p> <p>Mitigating and aggravating factors were considered, as were other reports cases and Article 10 of the European Convention of Human Rights.</p> <p>In conclusion, the Appeal Tribunal concluded that a period of</p>

Link to case	Name	Relevant Authority	Nature of allegation	Date	Tribunal decision	Points of interest arising:
						<p>suspension of six months was excessive, as this was the maximum sanction which could be imposed by the Standards Committee, and it considered that the breaches in this case were not of the most egregious in nature.</p> <p>The Appeal Tribunal decided to refer the matter back to the Council's Standards Committee with a recommendation that the Appellant should be suspended for <u>10 weeks</u>.</p>

CYNGOR SIR YNYS MON / ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
COMMITTEE:	Standards Committee
DATE:	12 th June 2025
REPORT TITLE:	Update on the National Standards Committee Forum for Wales
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:	As above
REPORT BY:	Mared Wyn Yaxley Legal Services Manager mwy@ynysmon.llyw.cymru
LINK OFFICER:	Lynn Ball Director of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer lbx@ynysmon.llyw.cymru

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A National Standards Committee Forum has been set up in Wales, as a result of the recommendation made by the Penn Review on the Ethical Regime in Wales.
- 1.2 In accordance with the Forum's terms of reference, only the Chair of each Standards Committee attends the Forum meetings.

2. FORUM MEETINGS

- 2.1 Since the last Standards Committee meeting, no Forum meeting has been held.
- 2.2 The Chairs' notes from the 27th of January 2025 Forum meeting were shared with the Standards Committee members via email on 4th of February. This Forum meeting was discussed at the Standards Committee meeting on 6th February.
- 2.3 The next Forum meeting is scheduled on 23rd June 2025.

3. THE FORUM'S DOCUMENTATION

- 3.1 The Forum has agreed that, in relation to Forum notes - *"the notes may be circulated to Standards Committees, provided no individual complainant or councillor complained of could be identified. This will be kept under review at/after each meeting."*

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 For the Committee to note the contents of this report.

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CYNGOR SIR YNYS MON / ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
COMMITTEE:	Standards Committee
DATE:	12 June 2025
REPORT TITLE:	Draft Annual Report for the Standards Committee 2024/2025
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:	For the Standards Committee to approve the draft report in readiness for the next full Council meeting
REPORT BY:	Mared Wyn Yaxley Legal Services Manager/Deputy Monitoring Officer mwyys@ynysmon.llyw.cymru
LINK OFFICER:	Lynn Ball Director of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer lbxcs@ynysmon.llyw.cymru

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 There is a statutory requirement for the Standards Committee to present an annual report to full Council.
- 1.2 The report currently being considered (**Enclosure 1**) is a draft of the Standards Committee's Annual Report for 2024/2025. The period of the report runs from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.
- 1.3 The draft report is incomplete as the process for Group Leaders to provide information in relation to their new duties as Group Leaders is ongoing. Details about that process is included in the draft annual report. It is envisaged that this process will conclude during the summer of 2025, in readiness for the Committee's final report to be presented to full Council in September 2025.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 For the Standards Committee to agree
- 2.1.1 the contents of the draft report and its enclosures, as included in **Enclosure 1** to this report;
- 2.1.2 that the current draft annual report for 2024/2025 (**Enclosure 1**) is updated in accordance with information obtained during the process of gathering information from the Group Leaders; and
- 2.1.3 that any changes to the annual report (**Enclosure 1**) are made either in an informal meeting or via correspondence with all Committee members, in accordance with the Chair's instructions, having discussed with the Monitoring Officer.

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
MEETING:	County Council
DATE:	September 2025
TITLE OF REPORT:	Standards Committee's Annual Report for 2024/2025
REPORT BY:	Lynn Ball, Director of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer lbxcs@ynysmon.llyw.cymru
PURPOSE OF REPORT:	Submit the statutory annual report of the Standards Committee to the County Council
CONTACT OFFICER:	Mared Wyn Yaxley Legal Services Manager / Deputy Monitoring Officer mwyys@ynysmon.llyw.cymru

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Standards Committee is a statutory committee responsible for promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by the Isle of Anglesey County Councillors and the Town and Community Councillors in the area, supporting them to follow their Code of Conduct.
- 1.2 The Standards Committee is statutorily required to make an annual report to the Council as soon as possible at the end of a financial year. The report must explain how the Committee has met its statutory functions during the relevant period.
- 1.3 The appended report has been submitted and agreed by the Standards Committee.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Annual Report of the Standards Committee for 2024-2025 be presented to a meeting of the County Council for its approval within 3 months of its receipt.
- 2.2 That Council approves the Standards Committee's Work Programme for 2025/2026 (Enclosure 3 to the Report) whilst accepting that some additional matters may be included, in accordance with demand.

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4	Looking forward to 2025/2026

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1. Foreword



Trefor Owen
Chair of the Standards Committee (August 2024)

I took on the role of Committee Chair in 2024, after undertaking the role of Vice Chair since February 2024. My predecessor was Rhys Davies. Whilst Rhys' period as Chair was cut short due to personal circumstances, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Rhys, on behalf of the Committee members, for his work. Rhys remains as an independent member of the Standards Committee, and his contribution continues to be appreciated.

There are 9 members of the Standards Committee, and the membership has remained unchanged during the year. I congratulate Brace Griffiths on his election to Vice Chair since February 2025

The Committee's work throughout the year has been varied and the Committee has been busy satisfying the statutory requirement to promote and maintain high standards of conduct amongst Anglesey County Councillors and Town and Community Councillors, including assisting members in adhering to their Code of Conduct.

There were 4 formal meetings along with 4 informal meetings during the year. This, of course, was in addition to conversations with Group Leaders, elected members, and Community Council clerks, and training sessions. Most of our work involved actioning the matters identified when reviewing the registers of interests of a sample of members, as well as ensuring that important issues regarding conduct were addressed at Group Leaders meetings, during the Town and Community Councils Forum and in our Newsletters / Communications with Members. The Committee is pleased to have arranged four Code of Conduct training sessions for Town and Community Councillors during Autumn 2024. Anglesey was also represented at the National Standards Committee Forum for Wales.

This report follows a similar format to the one introduced last year. I hope it provides a comprehensive overview of the work accomplished by the Standards Committee during the year.

I would like to thank the elected and co-opted members of the County Council, and the Town and Community Council members and Clerks for their cooperation with conduct issues once again this year. The ten principles of public life are clear, and the Code of Conduct remains in line with these principles. It is hoped that the Committee's efforts ensures that the requirements of the Code are made clear to members, and that this will assist them as they work for the benefit of the area and its constituents.

Trefor Owen (Chair)










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2. Committee Membership

The Standards Committee is a statutory committee with 9 members. Information on the role and responsibilities of the Committee can be found in **Enclosure 1**. Details about the Committee and its membership can be found [here](#).

- A. Independent Members: The five independent members are appointed for up to two four-year terms. The Chair and Vice Chair must be appointed from among the independent members. The appointments are made for a period of four years or (if a casual vacancy) until the term of office of the previous post holder would have expired. An individual may be re-elected as Chair/Vice-Chair.
- B. Members of the Town and Community Councils: Two members are appointed to represent the town and community councils following local government elections. The representatives will sit on the Standards Committee until the next local government elections or until they are no longer members of the community council, whichever happens first. Town and community council members can be reappointed for one more term, with the agreement of Anglesey town and community councils.
- C. County Council Members: The appointment of two representatives is made by a Council resolution.

A link to the job descriptions of Committee members can be found [here](#).

	Trefor Owen (Chair since September 2024)	Independent Member		Brace Griffiths (Vice Chair since February 2025)	Independent Member
	Rhys Davies (Chair from February 2024 until August 2024)	Independent Member		John R Jones (Chair until February 2024)	Independent Member
	Gill Murgatroyd	Independent Member		Margaret Murley Roberts	County Council Representative
	Dafydd Rhys Thomas	County Council Representative		Iorwerth Roberts	Town and Community Council Representative
	Margaret Thomas	Town and Community Council Representative			

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3. The Committee's achievements during the year

This is the Standards Committee's fourth annual report, completed in line with the requirements of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, although the preparation of an annual report has been common practice in this Council for several years. It reports on the Committee's work between April 2024 and March 2025.

The Standards Committee's Programme of Work 2024-2025 (as approved by full Council in September 2024), detailing the Committee's actions during the year against its aims, is available in **Enclosure 2**. As in previous years, some unforeseen issues arose during the year, and these are also included in the Enclosure.

Access to the Committee's Agendas, Reports and Minutes of formal meetings is possible via the Standards Committee's homepage on the Council's website – link [here](#).

Particular attention is drawn to the following issues:

- **Complaints about members of the County Council / Town and Community Councils in Anglesey to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.**

County Councillors: Correspondence was received in relation to 2 cases where the Public Services Ombudsman Wales (PSOW) decided not to investigate. There is 1 case currently being investigated by the PSOW and 1 case has been referred to the Monitoring Officer for consideration by the Council's Standards Committee.

Town and Community Councillors: Correspondence was received in relation to 3 cases where the PSOW decided not to investigate. There is 1 case currently being investigated by the PSOW.

The two cases that are being investigated by the PSOW are the same matters referred to within the Standards Committee's Annual Report for 2023/24. The Standards Committee, at its formal meeting on 6th February 2025, noted its concern regarding the delay between a complaint being submitted to the PSOW and a conclusion being reached. The 2 matters currently under investigation by the PSOW were originally referred to the PSOW in February 2024. The matter referred to the Standards Committee in December 2024 had been investigated since June 2023.

One report has been referred to the Committee by the PSOW during this period. An Initial Determination meeting was held on 26.02.2025 and a Hearing will be conducted in accordance with the Committee's determination. The conclusion of that matter will be reported within the Standards Committee's annual report for 2025-26.

No notices from the Adjudication Panel for Wales were received during this period.

The PSOW, and the Adjudication Panel for Wales, publish an all-Wales summary of the cases they have considered on their websites. These cases are reported on during formal meetings of the Standards Committee and a summary is also included in the Newsletters/Communications published by the Standards Committee.

- **Work with the Area's Town and Community Councils.**

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Training on the Code of Conduct was arranged for Town and Community Councils during Autumn 2024. The 40 Town and Community Councils on the island were encouraged to attend one of the four sessions arranged, in Welsh and English, during the day and in the evening. Unfortunately, take up has been disappointing for previous training events, and that pattern continues with only half the Town and Community Councils having a representative at these training sessions

The Committee is grateful to those Town and Community Councils that have engaged with previous events.

The Committee's Programme of Work noted that it would conduct a review was 1 Community Council where concerns had been raised with the Committee. The intention was to conduct this review during the Spring of 2023, however the Clerk of the Community Council requested that the review be postponed. Despite further contact being made to arrange an alternative date, no date has been agreed. Due to the passage of time and the Community Council's unwillingness to arrange a review date, the Standards Committee confirmed that it would no longer contact the Community Council in relation to the offer of this voluntary review of the Registers of Interests.

The Chair of the Standards Committee attended a meeting of the Town and Community Council Forum on 19th of September 2024 to present information discussed by the Standards Committee at its formal meeting in June 2024, and relevant to the Town and Community Councils. A Newsletter was sent to the Town and Community Councils in September 2024.

The Standards Committee will continue to liaise with the Forum as a means of communicating with the Town and Community Councils.

▪ **Local Resolution Protocol.**

The Local Resolution Protocol for Members of the County Council:

Whilst concerns were brought to the attention of the Standards Committee Chair during the year, there were no requests for the Committee's Chair to act under the provisions of the Protocol. Low level concerns regarding the conduct of members were dealt with internally through political group processes.

As a result of the work done by the PSOW in collating the Local Resolution Protocols from authorities in Wales and obtaining a legal opinion on the status of some provisions within the LRPs, a review was conducted to consider the Council's LRP in February 2024. A report was presented to the Standards Committee's formal meeting and actioning the proposed changes, having discussed with Group Leaders, is part of the Committee's work programme for 2025-26.

Members are reminded of the Protocol's availability, although the Committee hopes that it will not be required. Members are reminded of the principles should they wish to utilise the Local Resolution Protocol: that concerns should be raised as soon as possible after the incident in question, and the matter should be dealt with as a matter of priority to ensure the process is given due attention. This is essential to the success of the process.

The Local Resolution Protocol for Town and Community Council Members:

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A Local Resolution Protocol for Town and Community Councils has been developed by One Voice Wales and Town and Community Councils are encouraged to adopt it. There is a locally developed Protocol too; this has not been used since its adoption.

▪ **Advice by the Committee on training for Members and Group Leaders**

Reports are presented by the Human Resources Training and Development Manager during formal meetings of the Standards Committee. These reports consider the content of the Training Programme for Members and the training undertaken. The Committee can contribute as the Programme is being developed and consider to what extent Members are participating with the Training Programme.

As part of its work during the year, the Standards Committee has been in discussion with Group Leaders and the Human Resources Training and Development Manager to develop coaching sessions for Group Leaders. The first part of the training programme includes DISC personality profiling for each Group Leader which will then be used as a basis for the individual coaching sessions. Further work will continue during next year's work programme and reports will be prepared for the Standards Committee's formal meetings.

The training for the Members of the Standards Committee is included in the Committee's annual Programme of Work. This year it included:

• ***Hearing Training:***

Training on conducting Hearings into Code of Conduct referrals from the PSOW was held by an external provider in September 2024, in light of the 3 cases being investigated by the PSOW at the time. This was held as a 1 day classroom training event and all Standard Committee members were invited to attend. As a result of this training session, the Standards Committee reviewed and amended its Hearing Procedure. The updated Procedure document has been published.

• ***Training on the Code of Conduct***

Following the elections in May 2022, the Standards Committee arranged training sessions for members of the Council. Whilst most elected members attended that training, mop-up sessions were held in 23/24. The 35 members have now received classroom-based training on the Code of Conduct.

As a Committee, we believe it is essential that all members receive training on the Code of Conduct, and we are disappointed that Welsh Government has rejected the recommendation in the Penn Report that training on the Code of Conduct should be mandatory for all members.

▪ **The Committee's Assessment of how Group Leaders have complied with their new duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct amongst group members.**

A copy of the template used this year is available in **Enclosure 6**. It is similar to the form used previously, for ease of reference, but with some minor changes in an effort to assist the discussions between Group Leaders and the Independent Members of the Standards Committee.

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Cymraeg / This document is also available in Welsh

- **Chair and Vice Chair's involvement in a conduct matter in the Planning and Orders Committee**

Following a referral from the Monitoring Officer regarding the conduct of 2 Members, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Standards Committee decided to attend meetings of the Planning and Orders Committee for the purpose of observing member conduct. The observation process was started in March 2024 and continued as part of the Committee's Work Programme for 2024/2025.

It was reported in last year's annual report that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Standards Committee met with the relevant Group Leaders to discuss the conduct of the 2 members. In the view of the Chair and Vice Chair, remediation actions had been taken and both matters were satisfactorily concluded.

The independent Members (in pairs) attended the Planning and Orders Committee meetings in March, April and May 2024, following a meeting between the Standards Committee's Chair and Vice Chair and the Planning and Orders Committee Chair. The intention was to observe Member conduct after concerns were raised in relation to the conduct of 2 Members (who were not Committee Members) at the February 2024 meeting of the Planning and Orders Committee. It was the intention of the Standards Committee to observe for a period of 6 months, subject to a 3-month review. The period may be reduced or increased as necessary. At their review (following the May 2024 Planning and Orders Committee), the independent Members decided to end the observation exercise as they were content with the conduct they observed.

General findings were reported to the Chair of the Planning and Orders Committee by letter on 16th May 2024. These included the observations of the Standards Committee's Independent Members that attendees' conduct and comments were considered respectful and there was no repeat of the conduct which was the subject of the original concern; contributors were given a fair opportunity to speak; Committee Members were prepared for the meetings and were aware of the arrangements. The Chair was also praised for being authoritative and fair and setting a good standard for courtesy whilst ensuring sufficient opportunity for stakeholders to make their oral contributions.

The Chair of the Standards Committee corresponded with the Planning section recommending that training be given to Members. Training for the Planning and Orders Committee Members is mandatory, but it was felt that more general training for all elected Members would be useful so that they are aware of Planning matters and the process that must be followed. A guidance document was prepared by the Planning Officers and shared with the Standards Committee for confirmation that it was fulfilling the Committee's brief. This document was shared with Members on 10 June 2024.

- **Review of the three Registers of Interests**

An important element of the Committee's work during 2023/2024 was to undertake a review of the Registers of Interests of a sample of County Councillors. This work was undertaken by the five independent members of the Standards Committee, with each member reviewing 4 Member's Registers, chosen at random, based on political balance, with each Group Leader being reviewed.

These reviews were undertaken in January 2024 and the actions arising were included in the Committee's programme of work for 2024/25.

The review process has been reported in detail within reports presented to the formal Standards Committee meetings in June 2024 and February 2025.

The Standards Committee took the following actions as a result of the exercise: - [Review of Registers of Interests of Elected Members](#)

- **Dispensations**

The Standards Committee is required to consider applications for dispensations to allow Members who cannot participate in a debate or decision due to a substantial personal interests (prejudicial), to do so under circumstances defined by statute.

No applications for a dispensation were received during the reporting period.

Members are reminded that applying for a dispensation is available to them, as County Councillors, Co-opted Members or Town and Community Councillors.

- **Newsletters**

It has been the practice of the Standards Committee to send Newsletters for (a) the Town and Community Councils and (b) Isle of Anglesey County Council Members following formal meetings of the Committee (twice a year). However, it was noted in the previous annual report that the Committee feels that preparing the Newsletters demands a lot of the Committee's resources and the supporting officers, with little response to the requests/issues raised in them, and so it would be reconsidering their content for the future.

The Newsletter distributed to Town and Community Councils in September 2024 is available in **Enclosure 4** and the Newsletter for County Councillors sent in October 2024, is available in **Enclosure 5**.

At its formal meeting in February 2025, the Committee agreed to try another approach in order to share its key messages with the Town and Community Councillors and IOACC Members from now on. Further work in relation to this will be included in the Committee's Work Programme for 2025/2026.

4. Looking forward to 2025/2026

The Standards Committee's proposed Work Programme for 2025-2026 is included in **Enclosure 3**.

There are statutory requirements for Standards Committees (see **Enclosure 1**). However, deciding on how to operate within those requirements is a matter of local choice to some extent.

It was agreed that the interactive model developed by the Committee in previous years would be limited during 2024/25, as the extensive preventative work completed by the Standards Committee had been effective, and the number of complaints regarding the conduct of County Councillors and Town and Community Councillors had been low for several years, and an expectation that at least one of the three matters under investigation by the PSOW would be referred to the Standards Committee.

An Initial Determination in February 2025 resolved that a Hearing should be held. Conducting a Hearing in this way is a priority for the Standards Committee and its supporting officers. The Hearing is arranged for May 2025.

At the time of writing this report, there are another 2 cases under investigation by the PSOW and it is entirely possible for one or more of these matters to be referred to the Standards Committee for an initial Determination and, perhaps, a Hearing. Responding to such referrals would have to be prioritised by the Committee. On that basis, and to ensure that there is sufficient capacity to fulfil this primary statutory requirement, the Committee's preventative work programme will be further curtailed during 2025/26. So, for a second year, the Standards Committee will not be undertaking any reviews of the registers, of either the County Council or the Town and Community Councils.

The Committee will, of course, prioritise its work and redirect its resources to ensure that it continues to meet its statutory requirements and shall continue to support Members of the County Council and town and community councils in complying with the requirements under their Code of Conduct.



Annual Report for Standards Committee:

2024-2025

ENCLOSURE 1

The Role and Responsibility of the Standards Committee:

There is a statutory requirement for the County Council to have a Standards Committee. A Standards Committee's general function is to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members of the relevant authority and to assist them in complying with the Code of Conduct for members.

To this end, the Standards Committee's statutory role and functions, in relation to County Council members (elected and co-opted) and Town/Community Council members, include: -

- promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by members;
- assisting members to observe their Code of Conduct;
- advising the authority regarding adopting or revising the Code of Conduct for members;
- advising, training, or arranging to train members on issues relating to the Code of Conduct;
- monitoring the Code of Conduct for members;
- considering applications for dispensations;
- dealing with any referrals from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW), or the Adjudication Panel for Wales

Additional duties have also been placed on the Committee since May 2022, namely:

- to monitor Group Leaders' compliance with the duty to take reasonable steps to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members of their group and to cooperate with the Council's Standards Committee in the exercise of the Committee's functions.
Standards committees are also required to provide advice and training, or to arrange training for group leaders regarding the new duty. At the beginning of each administration, this should happen within six months of an election and should be reviewed annually.
- to publish an Annual Report:
The Standards Committee is required to make an Annual Report to the Council, as soon as reasonably practicable at the end of the financial year, and the Council must consider the report and any recommendations made by the Committee within three months of its receipt.

As a minimum, the report must:

- describe how the Standards Committee has discharged its functions;
- confirm that a local protocol is in place for resolving complaints, and provide an assessment of its impact;
- include an analysis of complaints. This analysis should include information regarding the number of councillors that were the subject of upheld complaints, and whether or not they had attended training on the Code of Conduct, prior to or following the complaint.
- provide a summary of the reports and recommendations made or referred to the committee by the PSOW relating to the investigation of alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct, and any subsequent action taken by the Standards Committee;
- include a summary of the notices given to the Committee by the Adjudication Panel for Wales, in relation to the Panel's decisions regarding possible breaches of the code of conduct for members;
- describe the advice it has provided on training for all members and group leaders and how that advice has been implemented;
- assess how the Committee has worked with the town and community councils in its area to promote and maintain high standards of conduct amongst town and community councillors;
- include the Committee's assessment of how Group Leaders have complied with their new duty to promote high standards of conduct amongst group members, including the advice the Standards Committee has provided and the training it has suggested.

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn y Gymraeg / This document is also available in Welsh

ENCLOSURE 2

Standards Committee's Work Programme for 2024/2025 (approved by full Council on 26.09.2024) with details of achievements against the objectives.

No	Items	Action	Completed / Further Actions
1	The Standards Committee's Annual Report to full Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee to begin consideration of and work on the next Annual Report ahead of its formal meeting in June 2025 The Committee to develop its annual report for 2024/2025 (and proposed work plan for 2025/2026) at the end of the 2024/2025 term. This includes working with Group Leaders in relation to their reporting responsibilities under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and the process to be followed between Group Leaders and the Standards Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Leaders reporting process for 2023/24 was discussed at an informal meeting of the Standards Committee on 25/10/2024. Amendments were made to the reporting form Amended version of the reporting form was presented by the Chair of the Standards Committee to Group Leaders on 30/01/2025 Reporting forms were shared with Group Leaders with a request for the completed forms to be submitted to the Monitoring Officer by 30/04/2025 Completed forms are awaited and meetings between the Group Leaders and the independent Members of the Standards Committee will be arranged during Summer 2025. Information from the meetings with Group Leaders has been included in the Annual Report. The final Report will be presented to full Council in September 2025.
2	Execution of Local Resolution Protocol for County Councillors and Town and Community Councillors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As and when required / in accordance with the Chair's discretion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The County Council's LRP was discussed at the Standards Committee in February 2025. Amendments were proposed. Work will be done as part of the Work Programme for 2025-2026 to action these proposed changes. Number of cases referred under the LRP for IOACC: - Nil Number of cases referred under the LRP for TCCS: - Nil.
3	Offer and Provision of training to leaders of political groups. Need to decide:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These arrangements must be made at the start of each administration and training take place within 6 months of the election and be reviewed at least annually. The Standards Committee will encourage Group Leaders to undertake any training developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standards Committee Chair attended a Group Leaders meeting on 10/10/2024 to present the programme suggested by the Training Section (Human Resources) Update provided by the HR Training Manager at the

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who will deliver training Involvement of the Standards Committee Members Involve Senior Officers? 	<p>under the umbrella of the National Standards Committee Forum and/or via WLGA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locally, the Standards Committee is working with the Training section (HR) to arrange 1-1 Training for the Group Leaders to support with their statutory group leader roles on matters that are considered relevant for Group Leaders locally. 	<p>Standards Committee's formal meeting on 06/02/2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work continues to be done regarding DISC profiling and subsequent coaching sessions, and this will be included in the Work Programme for 2025-2026
4	<p>Communication with political group leaders including in relation to group leaders' duties in relation to their members' conduct</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair and Vice Chair to report at Group Leaders' meetings following every formal meeting of the Standards Committee and presenting the proposed Newsletter. Further reporting / communication to be made as required. Any work required as part of the Standards Committee's duty to assess the group leaders' discharge of their statutory duties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Leaders' Meeting (presentation by Trefor Owen as Vice-Chair) on 18/07/2024 to present general findings/lessons learned from the review of the Members' register of interests (The 6th of June and 20th June Group Leader's meetings were cancelled) Group Leaders' Meeting (presentation by Chair of the Committee) on 10/10/2024 to provide an update on the matters raised at the formal meeting in June 2024; presentation of the Newsletters, discuss Members' mandatory training and the Group Leaders' role, and the Group Leaders' training.* Group Leaders' Meeting (presentation by the Chair of Committee) on 30/01/2025 to present the Committee's proposed response to the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales' Consultation in its practice of informing Councillors when complaints are made. <p>*The Chair of the Standards Committee met with 2 group Leaders to discuss the Mandatory training record of their group members in December 2024 and January 2025. The concern was raised following the report of the Human Resources Development Manager at the Standards Committee's formal meeting in June 2024. A general comment was made at a Group Leaders meeting in October 2024, and with no improvement noted,</p>

			individual meetings with 2 Group Leaders were arranged.
5	Communication with IOACC / Town and Community Council Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newsletters to be sent following the formal meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newsletters (Issue 7) sent in relation to the June meeting – to the Town and Community Councils in September 2024 and to the IOACC Members in October 2024. There has been very limited communication from TCC'S / IOACC Members in response to the Newsletters and so the Standards Committee has decided not to continue with this practice. Alternative communication methods are to be discussed as part of the Committee's Work Programme in 2025-2026.
6	Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal meetings in June and December 2024, and as required. Informal meetings may also be arranged, as required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13/05/2024 – Informal meeting 20/05/2024, 24/05/2024 and 03/06/2024 – Independent Members of the Standards Committee met with the 4 Group Leaders. 18/06/2024 – Formal meeting 01/07/2024 – Informal meeting (2) 06/09/2024 – Hearing training (external provider) 25/10/2024 – Informal meeting 11/12/2024 – Cancelled formal meeting 24/01/2025 – Formal meeting 06/02/2025 – Formal meeting 26/02/2025 – Extraordinary formal meeting. Formal meetings are held as hybrid meetings. Informal meetings are generally held as remote meetings only.
7	Complaints reporting – Quarterly Update Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports will be included on the Committee's formal Agenda (bi-annual reporting). The report to the Standards Committee discusses any particular trend in poor behaviour. Need to continue to review this and ensure that the process preserves and respects (any of) the PSOW's requirements of confidentiality relating to these matters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarter 1 – sent e-mail on 02/07/2024 Quarter 2 – sent e-mail on 01/10/2024 Quarter 3 – sent e-mail on 18/01/2025 Quarter 4 – sent email on 01/04/2025 Quarters 1-3 included on the agenda for the Standards

			Committee meeting on 06/02/2025
8	Training for SC Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage all Standards Committee Members to complete all mandatory training. Arrange any further training required, in consultation with the HR Training Manager. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standards Committee members are offered training in accordance with the Training Offer for Members. “Hearing” training provided to all Standards Committee Chairs via the National Standards Committee Forum in April 2024. Local “Hearing” training arranged for the Standards Committee via an external provider on 06/09/2024
9	Code of Conduct Training for Town and Community Councillors (mid-term refresher training)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To arrange, in consultation with the HR Training Manager, training on the Code of Conduct to be offered to the Town and Community Councils during Autumn 2024. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 training sessions arranged via Un Llais Cymru / One Voice Wales as follows: Monday 14/10/2024 – 2:00pm-3:30pm Cymraeg Wednesday 23/10/2024 – 2:00pm - 3:30pm English Thursday 07/11/2024 – 6:30pm-8:00pm Cymraeg Thursday 19/11/2024 – 6:30pm-8:00pm English Report on attendance presented to the Standards Committee in its June 2025 meeting
10	Chair Training – Challenging Conduct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the Chair / Vice-Chair to attend training being arranged via the HR Training Manager on dealing with challenging conduct by members and/or public. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The matter will be included as part of the Standards Committee's Work Programme in 25/26
11	How to Complain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration to be given as to how to publicise how to complain against Members once it has been settled what the process will be for 'low-level complaints' following the Welsh Government's consultation into the Penn Review. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Still awaiting details from the Welsh Government on their consultation on the Penn Review.
12	Dispensations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As and when applications arise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No dispensation applications have been received during this period
13	Members Annual Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standards Committee to continue to encourage the practice of completing Annual Reports and work with the Head of Democratic Services in this matter, whilst appreciating that whether they decide to complete an annual report is a matter for each individual Councillor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reports presented by the Head of Democratic Services to the Standards Committee's Formal meetings include details about Annual Reports.

14	Town and Community Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair and Vice Chair to attend regular Forum Meetings to present matters of interest from the Standards Committee to the Town and Community Councils, and Newsletters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair attended Forum meeting on 19/09/2024. Arrangements were made for the Chair to attend the Forum meeting in February 2025; however, as the Standards Committee had not met in December 2024, this was re-arranged, and the intention is for the Standards Committee's Chair to attend the May meeting of the Forum.
15	National Standards Committee Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the Standards Committee Chair to attend Forum meetings and provide feedback to Standards Committee Members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trefor Owen (in his capacity as Vice-Chair at the time) attended the Forum meeting on 24/06/2024. Notes shared with the Standards Committee Members and discussed later June 2024. Trefor Owen (in his capacity as Chair) attended the Forum meeting on 27/01/2025. Notes shared with the Standards Committee members in February 2025. Hearings training for Forum Members (i.e. Chairs of the Standards Committees) was arranged on 23/04/2024. Rhys Davies (in his capacity as Chair at the time) was unable to attend but did receive a recording of the training session.
16	Case reporting by the PSOW and the APW. Provide links for Standards Committee members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide reports at each formal Standards Committee meeting signposting the cases published by the PSOW and APW. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included in the agenda for formal Standards Committee meeting in June 2024 and February 2025. Matters included in Newsletter/correspondence sent to the Town and Community Councils and the IOACC Members
17	Penn report / WG consultation on ethical matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Penn report published. WG Consultation ended 23.06.2023. Responses to the Consultation published by WG in November 2023. Further work needed when Welsh Government's response to the Consultation is published. No timetable currently known. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No further details received
18	Annual Discussions for the Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair will meet with the Members and report any outputs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Chair and Vice Chair were appointed in February 2024. The Chair resigned from the role in

	Committee members.	<p>that need to be arranged to the Monitoring Officer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair will have a discussion with the Monitoring Officer. 	<p>August 2024. The Vice Chair was appointed as Chair in September 2024. A Vice-Chair was appointed in February 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a result of the above and officer capacity (due to vacant role since Summer 2024) this matter has not been progressed due to prioritising other matters included in the work programme. This matter will be included in the Work Programme for 2025-2026
19	Observation of the Council and its Committee meetings from time to time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Standards Committee Members will attend meetings of the County Council or its Committees for observation if required, and, if appropriate will also provide feedback to the relevant Chair. Following on from work in 2023/2024, the Standards Committee will continue to observe the Planning and Orders Committee meeting. The original intention is for two independent members to attend Committee meetings for 6 months (beginning from March 2024), with a review to take place after 3 months (May); the observation exercise may be cut short or extended, as deemed necessary. General findings made will be fed back to the Chair of the Planning and Orders Committee at the end of the exercise; any immediate concerns will be reported earlier. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Standards Committee began observing the Planning and Orders Committee meetings as observers in March 2024, as part of the Committee's preventative work following a referral from the Monitoring Officer. This was following a meeting between the Standards Committee's Chair and Vice-Chair (at the time), and the Planning and Orders Committee's Chair. The Standards Committee's intention was to observe the Planning and Orders Committee meetings for a period of 6 months, with a review to take place after 3 months. The independent members of the Standards Committee took turns to attend the Planning and Orders Committee meetings in March, April and May 2024. Following this, the independent members reviewed the matter at an informal meeting on 13/05/2024 and decided not to continue with any further review/observations. No further observations were carried out during the year.
20	Support the Democratic Services Committee's work as it encourages County Council members' wellbeing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist the Democratic Services Committee as it leads on this work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Head of Democratic Services presents his update in relation to Member related matters including this element at formal meetings of the Standards Committee.
21	Gifts and Hospitality Register – increase the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following a discussion at a national level in the National Standards Committee Forum for Wales to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No opportunity has arisen for this matter to be actioned.

	registration value to £25	<p>standardise the level at which gifts and hospitality must be registered at all-Wales authorities, it was agreed in principle by this Council that the proposed level of £25 would be applied in this authority, rather than the current £20 limit. However, a change to the Council's Constitution is required before the level can be applied. A recommendation was made that the next appropriate report to be presented to the Executive / full Council include this recommendation. No such opportunities have arisen as yet. This remains the intention of the Committee.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This matter will be included in the Work Programme for 2025-2026.
22.	Actions arising from the reviews of the elected Members' registers of interest by the independent Members of the Standards Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reviews were undertaken in January 2024. Findings discussed at informal meeting on 01/02/2024. Work is ongoing to ensure findings made in that review are distributed to (a) individual Councillors, (b) group leaders, (c) officers and (d) all members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of the registers of interest of a sample of the County Councillors was conducted in January 2024 (as part of the Committee's Work Programme for 2023-24), with findings discussed at an informal Standards Committee Meeting in February 2024. • Actioning the findings made as a result of the reviews was included as an action on the Work Programme for 2024/2025. • The process was reported upon at the Standards Committee formal meetings in June 2024 and February 2025. • Correspondence was sent to individual Councillors where the reviewer considered the Member needed to review/update/explain any information. • Where there were wellbeing concerns, e.g due to attendance records, correspondence was sent to the relevant Group Leader. • Corporate matters e.g. technical matters were noted by the independent members whilst conducting the reviews and correspondence was sent to the Chief Executive to raise these concerns. • A general findings report was prepared, shared with Group

			Leaders and then distributed to all Members in July 2024.
23	Access to information about the Standards Committee on the County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This matter was included on the Committee's work programme for 2023/2024 but, due to other work commitments, was not actioned. The website is being developed extensively, and it would be timely for steps to be taken to ensure there is easy access to information about the Standards Committee on the Council's website. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is information about the Standards Committee included on the Council's Website and Member meeting details are current. However, due to other work commitments, no further work has been done to add to the information already available. This will be included in the Work Programme for 2025-26
24	Respond to requests made in relation to the investigations being conducted by Public Services Ombudsman for Wales as a result of complaints against County Councillors / Community Councillors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PSOW is currently investigating complaints in relation to 2 County Councillors and 1 Community Councillor. Take any necessary action in relation to these matters and any others that may arise during the year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PSOW is currently investigating complaints in relation to 1 County Councillor and 1 Community Councillor. The PSOW sent its report on an investigation into the Code of Conduct complaint against a County Councillor (under section 69 of the Local Government Act 2000) to the Monitoring Officer in December 2024. The report detailed the matter should be referred for consideration by the Council's Standards Committee. The Standards Committee, in accordance with its Hearings Procedure, held an initial Determination on 26/02/2025. At that meeting, the Standards Committee decided that the complaint should be subject of a local hearing of the Committee. The Hearing will be conducted outside the scope of this annual report and so dealing with this matter is something that will be reported upon in the Standards Committee's work programme for 2025/2026.
25	Matters arising from discussions with Group Leaders in preparing the Standard Committee's Annual Report to the full Council.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outcome of meetings: Matters to be actioned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General correspondence in relation to the 2023/2024 process to be sent to Group Leaders. Adapt the Group Leaders feedback form to Standards Committees to encourage Group Leaders to include more evidence in boxes 1-3 (amend format, confirm form 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General correspondence in relation to the 2023/24 process was sent to Group Leaders on 23rd of August 2024. The Group Leaders' feedback form to the Standards Committee was discussed at an informal meeting of the Standards Committee in October 2024, and amendments were made. The amended reporting form by the

		<p>will not be published) – to ensure consistency with the training information that is received quarterly by the Group Leaders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Leaders are encouraged to complete formal personal development reviews annually with Group Members. • Arrange all meetings, between Group Leaders and Standards Committee on one day to assist the arrangements and keep costs down. <p>Group leaders are requested to attend their meeting with the Standards Committee on their own so as to provide an open environment where Standards Committee and Group Leaders can discuss the Group Leaders' statutory obligation openly.</p>	<p>Standards Committee Chair was presented by the Standards Committee to Group Leaders at a meeting on 30th of January 2025. Group Leaders were provided with an opportunity to raise any concerns orally at the meeting or by correspondence. No correspondence was received. The final version was sent to the Group Leaders in March 2025 with a request for them to complete the form by 30th of April 2025 so that meetings could be arranged in May 2025.</p> <p>FURTHER INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED HERE AT A LATER DATE</p>
26	Community Council B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following on from work in 2024/25, there is an intention to agree on a review date with this Community Council if desired 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correspondence was sent to the Chair of this Community Council on 21/06/2024 detailing the timeline of events since February 2023., and requesting that the Council confirmed that a Review would take place by the end of July 2024 or that it did not wish for the Standards Committee to conduct such Review. • Contact was made by the Council's Clerk on 1st of August detailing a Review would not be possible until January 2025. Written confirmation of the Clerk's telephone request was requested but none received. On the basis that a review had been offered to this Council since Spring 2023 with no date being agreed, and as a Review is a voluntary process and no formal request was made for the Review, the Standards Committee decided that the Community Council did not

			want a review by the Standards Committee and no further contact would be made in relation to this offer of a Review.
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ENCLOSURE 3

Standards Committee's Proposed Work Programme for 2025/2026

No	Items	Action
1	The Standards Committee's Annual Report to full Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee to begin consideration of and work on the next Annual Report ahead of its formal meeting in June 2026. The Committee to develop its annual report for 2025/2026 (and proposed work plan for 2026/2027) at the end of the 2025/2026 term. This includes working with Group Leaders in relation to their reporting responsibilities under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and the process to be followed between Group Leaders and the Standards Committee
2	Execution of Local Resolution Protocol for County Councillors and Town and Community Councillors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As and when required / in accordance with the Chair's discretion
3	Offer and Provision of training to leaders of political groups. Need to decide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who will deliver training Involvement of the Standards Committee Members Involve Senior Officers? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These arrangements must be made at the start of each administration and training take place within 6 months of the election and be reviewed at least annually. The Standards Committee will encourage Group Leaders to undertake any training developed under the umbrella of the National Standards Committee Forum and/or via WLGA. Locally, the Standards Committee will continue to work with the Training section (HR) to arrange 1-1 Training for the Group Leaders to support with their statutory group leader roles on matters that are considered relevant for Group Leaders locally.
4	Communication with political group leaders including in relation to group leaders' duties in relation to their members' conduct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair and Vice Chair to report at Group Leaders' meetings following every formal meeting of the Standards Committee. Further reporting / communication to be made as required. Any work required as part of the Standards Committee's duty to assess the group leaders' discharge of their statutory duties.
5	Communication with IOACC / Town and Community Council Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the formal meetings of the Committee. Agree how best to communicate key messages.
6	Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet the statutory requirements to hold one formal meeting annually. It has been usual practice for two formal meetings to be held. Informal meetings may also be arranged, as required.
7	Complaints reporting – Quarterly Update Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports will be included on the Committee's formal Agenda. The report to the Standards Committee discusses any particular trend in poor behaviour. Need to continue to

ENCLOSURE 3

		review this and ensure that the process preserves and respects (any of) the PSOW's requirements of confidentiality relating to these matters.
8	Training for SC Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage all Standards Committee Members to complete all mandatory training. • Arrange any further training required, in consultation with the HR Training Manager.
9	Chair Training – Challenging Conduct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the Chair / Vice-Chair to attend training being arranged via the HR Training Manager on dealing with challenging conduct by members and/or public.
10	How to Complain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration to be given as to how to publicise how to complain against Members once it has been settled what the process will be for 'low-level complaints' following the Welsh Government's consultation into the Penn Review.
11	Dispensations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As and when applications arise
12	Members Annual Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standards Committee to continue to encourage the practice of completing Annual Reports and work with the Head of Democratic Services in this matter, whilst appreciating that whether they decide to complete an annual report is a matter for each individual Councillor.
13	Town and Community Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair and/or Vice Chair to attend regular Forum Meetings to present matters of interest from the Standards Committee to the Town and Community Councils.
14	National Standards Committee Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the Standards Committee Chair to attend Forum meetings and provide feedback to Standards Committee Members.
15	Case reporting by the PSOW and the APW. Provide links for Standards Committee members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide reports at each formal Standards Committee meeting signposting the cases published by the PSOW and APW.
16	Penn report / WG consultation on ethical matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Penn report published. WG Consultation ended 23.06.2023. • Responses to the Consultation published by WG in November 2023. • Further work needed when Welsh Government's response to the Consultation is published. No timetable currently known.
17	Annual Discussions for the Standards Committee members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair will meet with the Members and report any outputs that need to be arranged to the Monitoring Officer. • The Chair will have a discussion with the Monitoring Officer.
18	Observation of the Council and its Committee meetings from time to time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Standards Committee Members will attend meetings of the County Council or its Committees for observation if required, and, if appropriate will also provide feedback to the relevant Chair.
19	Support the Democratic Services Committee's work as it encourages County Council members' wellbeing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist the Democratic Services Committee as it leads on this work.

ENCLOSURE 3

20	Gifts and Hospitality Register – increase the registration value to £25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following a discussion at a national level in the National Standards Committee Forum for Wales to standardise the level at which gifts and hospitality must be registered at all-Wales authorities, it was agreed in principle by this Council in September 2023 that the proposed level of £25 would be applied in this authority, rather than the current £20 limit. However, a change to the Council's Constitution is required before the level can be applied. A recommendation was made that the next appropriate report to be presented to the Executive / full Council include this recommendation. No such opportunities have arisen as yet. This remains the intention of the Committee.
21	Access to information about the Standards Committee on the County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This matter was included on the Committee's work programme for 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 but, due to other work commitments, was not actioned. The website is being developed extensively, and it would be timely for steps to be taken to ensure there is easy access to information about the Standards Committee on the Council's website.
23	Respond to requests made in relation to the investigations being conducted by Public Services Ombudsman for Wales as a result of complaints against County Councillors / Community Councillors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 case has been referred by the PSOW to the Standards Committee for consideration. The Hearing will be arranged during the 2025/2026 reporting period. The PSOW is currently investigating complaints in relation to 1 County Councillor and 1 Community Councillor. Take any necessary action in relation to these matters and any others that may arise during the year.
24	Matters arising from discussions with Group Leaders in preparing the Standard Committee's Annual Report to the full Council.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outcome of meetings: Matters to be actioned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General correspondence in relation to the 2024/2025 process to be sent to Group Leaders (if required). <p>FURTHER DETAILS TO BE INCLUDED HERE FOLLOWING THE MEETINGS WITH GROUP LEADERS</p>
25	Local Resolution Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action amendments to the Local Resolution Protocol, following the review in February 2025, that follow the principles shared by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

Standards Committee Newsletter: Town and Community Councils

Summer 2024 - Issue 7



The [Standards Committee](#) (SC) is here to assist Councillors in complying with the Code of Conduct adopted by your Town or Community Council (TCC). As you know, maintaining high standards of ethical behaviour is crucial to your role in representing the public.

Code of Conduct Training for Town and Community Councils

The SC is glad to be able to offer four training sessions on the Code of Conduct for TCC Clerks and Councillors during the Autumn of 2024. This training is considered timely (halfway through the term since the last local elections when the training was first offered) and due to the rise in complaints within TCCs during Quarter 4 2023/2024. The SC is keen to encourage Clerks and Councillors to attend these sessions to improve your understanding of the Code of Conduct.

The sessions will be held on:

Monday, 14/10/2024 at 2:00pm (Welsh)

Wednesday 23/10/2024 at 2:00pm (English)

Thursday 07/11/2024 at 6:30pm (Welsh)

Tuesday 19/11/2024 at 6:30pm (English)

The sessions will last an hour and a half and will be held virtually.

According to the Sanctions Guide produced by the Adjudication Panel for Wales, failure to attend training on the Code of Conduct is considered an aggravating factor when considering sanctions. The training will not safeguard Councillors against complaints; however, it is a way of educating Clerks and Councillors to ensure they understand the Code and its implications.

Correspondence has already been sent to TCC Clerks and you are requested to contact the Legal Department to gain a place on this course. Spaces are limited and will therefore be allocated on a first come first served basis. Please contact Cyfraith@anglesey.gov.wales by **27/09/2024** to reserve a space, specifying which session you'd like to attend. **These sessions are free of charge.**

Over the page...

Dispensations

Councillors may be granted a dispensation by the SC that allows them to participate in decisions despite having a prejudicial interest under the Code. TCC Clerks have received guidance on how to apply for a dispensation and the Monitoring Officer would be more than happy to provide further copies on request.

Please contact the Monitoring Officer for support and advice regarding dispensations.

Social Media

During its formal meetings the SC receives reports on cases from across Wales that have been considered by the [Public Services Ombudsman for Wales](#) (PSOW) and the [Adjudication Panel for Wales](#) (APW). The County Council has adopted a social media protocol, a copy is available [here](#). Considering the cases recently determined by the PSOW/APW, if your TCC has not yet adopted a social media protocol, you may wish to consider doing so as social media issues can lead to breaches of the Code of Conduct for Members.

Recent Complaints

The SC is concerned that 5 complaints have been sent to the PSOW regarding Members of the same local Community Council within a short period of time at the beginning of 2024 (during Quarter 4 2023/2024). One case is still under investigation.

This is an increase compared to Quarters 1, 2 and 3 when no complaints were sent to the Ombudsman regarding Anglesey TCC Councillors.

The PSOW encourages TCCs to adopt a local resolution protocol based on the One Voice Wales model. A link to this protocol is available [here](#).

For matters that are beyond the remit of this Protocol you will need to consider forwarding the complaint to the PSOW.

And lastly...

The last formal meeting of the SC was held on 18/06/2024. Should you wish to look at the items/reports considered during the meeting, please follow [this](#) link.

If you have any suggestions regarding the kind of topics you'd like us to cover in the next newsletter, please get in touch with the Chair of the Standards Committee Cyfraith@anglesey.gov.wales.

Standards Committee Newsletter: Anglesey County Council Elected Members

Summer 2024 - Issue 7



The [Standards Committee](#) (SC) is here to support you in complying with the [Code of Conduct](#) for Members. As you know maintaining high standards of ethical behaviour is crucial to your role in representing the public.

Mandatory Training for Elected Members

The SC has noted that attendance by Elected Members at mandatory training is lower than expected. As a committee, we are keen to urge all Councillors to attend mandatory training to ensure you have the necessary information to fulfil your role. The Committee believes that training is a way of educating Councillors and adding value to the Council as a whole.

Group Leaders receive quarterly updates on attendance in relation to training and Group Leaders are asked to urge Members who have not completed all their mandatory training to do so as soon as possible. In the same way, individuals who have not completed their mandatory training are asked to ensure that they contact the Training Department (Human Resources) to check the arrangements for future training sessions.

Social Media Protocol

At its formal meetings the SC receives reports on the all Wales cases that have been considered by the [Public services Ombudsman for Wales](#) (PSOW) and the [Adjudication Panel for Wales](#) (APW). Considering some of the most recent cases, the SC is keen to remind Members of the Social Media Protocol that is available in paragraph 5.10 of the Council's [Constitution](#).

Members are encouraged to consider this Protocol when using social media.

Review of Elected Members Registers of Interests

Independent members of the Standards Committee recently undertook a review of the registers of interests of a sample of County Council Elected Members to ensure compliance with the Code of Conduct, and in particular the Registration requirements. The Committee decided to take the following actions based on their findings:

- Some of the Members subject to the review have received personal correspondence with recommendations to review / update / explain some of the information within their published Registers.
- When concerns were raised regarding the wellbeing of members, for example if there was a change in their attendance pattern, correspondence was sent to the member's Group Leader.
- Several corporate or technical issues were raised which have been raised with the Chief Executive.

- A general report offering feedback on the general issues/themes raised was shared with Group Leaders in the first instance and then via email with all Members. It is hoped that this report will give members an opportunity to learn by considering the issues the SC considers to be good practice/improvements for the future. You are encouraged to consider the content of the report and to take the necessary actions.

Thank you for your cooperation with this matter. We hope you consider these periodic reviews to be worthwhile.

Code of Conduct Training for Town and Community Councils

As part of its duty to provide training on the Code of Conduct and following an increase in complaints regarding Town and Community Councillors during Quarter 4 2023/2024, the SC has arranged training on the Code of Conduct for the clerks and members of the island's Town and Community Councils during Autumn 2024. The sessions will last an hour and a half. They will be held virtually. Four sessions have been arranged as follows—

Monday, 14/10/2024 at 2:00pm (Welsh)

Wednesday, 23/10/2024 at 2:00pm (English)

Thursday, 07/11/2024 at 6:30pm (Welsh)

Tuesday, 19/11/2024 at 6:30pm (English)

The SC has already written to the Town and Community Councils informing them of the arrangements.

In your role as County Councillor, you are requested to ensure this information is brought to the attention of the Town and Community Councils you attend and encourage the Clerks and Councillors to take part in these sessions to improve their understanding of the Code of Conduct for Members.

To book a place on one of the sessions e-mail Cyfraith@anglesey.gov.wales as soon as possible. Spaces will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

And lastly...

The last formal meeting of the SC was held on 18/06/2024. Should you wish to look at the items/reports considered during the meeting, please follow [this](#) link.

If you have any suggestions regarding the kind of topics you'd like us to cover in the next newsletter, please get in touch with the Chair of the Standards Committee Cyfraith@anglesey.gov.wales.

The Standards Committee's Annual Report and the new Group Leaders' duty



CYNGOR SIR
YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL

1. Under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, political Group Leaders now have duties in relation to standards of conduct. A leader of a political group must (a) take reasonable steps to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by the members of the group and (b) cooperate with the Council's Standards Committee in the exercise of its functions.
2. Group Leaders who fail to comply with the duty maybe regarded as bringing their office into disrepute, in breach of the Code of Conduct for Members.
3. In addition, the 2021 Act places a duty on Standards Committees to make an annual report to their council as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of each financial year (1 April-31 March). The report must be considered by the relevant council before the end of 3 months beginning with the day on which the council receives it.
4. The Standards Committee's annual report must include an assessment of the extent to which Group Leaders have complied with their duties (paragraph 1 above). The Standards Committee requires information from the Group Leaders in order to do this.
5. Having regard to the requirements in the 2021 Act, a template report has been drafted to assist Group Leaders and remind them of the matters to be covered in their reports to the Standards Committee.
6. Your form will not be published. It is shared with the independent members of the Standards Committee and the supporting officers only.
7. The template does not ask, and should not include details of individual cases. The report focuses on the type of action which has been taken in relation to each matter.
8. Group Leaders are asked to produce these reports once a year; however, if issues of importance arise during the year, Group Leaders should consult with the Monitoring Officer, who will inform the Chair of the Standards Committee.
9. Completed forms are to be forwarded by Group Leaders to the Monitoring Officer **by 30 April** in each year. The Monitoring Officer will report to the Standards Committee.
10. The independent members of the Standards Committee will arrange to meet with each Group Leader individually and in private to discuss their reports **during May**. It is aimed to hold these meetings on the same day.
11. The Standards Committee will use appropriate information from the Group Leaders' reports to inform its annual report to Council. The Committee's annual report will contain a short summary of the steps taken to fulfil the duty, its opinion on whether what has been done is sufficient and any future pieces of work that might be undertaken etc.
12. The Standards Committee will discuss its draft annual report to Council at its formal committee meeting in June. During this meeting the Standards Committee will agree on its findings arising from the Group Leaders' reports and will also confirm in that public forum the identity of any Group Leader who has failed to submit a completed report.
13. The Committee's annual report will be presented to full Council at the next available full Council meeting after the Standards Committee's June meeting.
14. If relevant, unaffiliated members (sitting outside a group) will also need to be briefed in the same way as Group Leaders so as to ensure high standard of conduct are maintained by all members, though they would not be expected to produce a report in this way.

Report by Group Leaders (GL) to the Standards Committee in relation to their GL duty:

Report by:	(name of GL)	Political Group:	(name of Group)
Period for which report applies ('the Period'):	1 April 20__ to 30 March 20__	Number of members in Group:	

Steps taken by the GL to promote compliance with the Code of Conduct:

Appendix 2 includes the type of matters the Standards Committee expects the Group Leaders to pay attention to and the threshold that is used by the Committee to consider if you have taken steps in relation to your duty as Group Leader. Please consider these matters and the 10 behavioural principals in public life that are in Appendix 3 when preparing your response.

→ Personal commitment

Use your own words to complete this section. See **Appendix 2** for more information.

→ Encouraging Members

Use your own words to complete this section. See **Appendix 2** for more information.

→ Working with the Standards Committee and other Group Leaders

Use your own words to complete this section. See **Appendix 2** for more information.

You are welcome to attach any relevant information on the steps that you have taken in relation to the above matters. However, this is not a requirement. But you are asked to prepare before your meeting with the Standards Committee and to be ready to share information and examples during these conversations.

Mandatory Training Modules () during the Period:See list of Mandatory Training in **Appendix 4**

Number of mandatory training modules to be completed by all Group members:		Number of completed modules:	
Number of members in the Group that have completed all required mandatory training modules:			
Number of members that have received training on the Code of Conduct specifically:			

Regular Group Meetings during the Period:

Number of Group meetings held for all Group members:	
---	--

Annual development discussion between members and their Group Leader during the Period:

Number of members who have been offered an annual discussion with the GL:	
Number of members who accept the above offer with the GL:	
Number of members who have attended an annual discussion meeting with the GL:	

Annual Reports, that are considered as good practice by the Committee, for the Period:

Number of members who have submitted a completed annual report:	
--	--

Standing Register of Personal Interests:

Number of members who have reviewed their Standing Register of Interests:	
--	--

Complaints:

Complaint received from:	Stage which the complaint reached:		
(insert numbers)	Informal	Local Resolution Protocol	PSOW
member of the public			
officer			
member of the same political group			
member of a different political group / not in a political group			

Support meetings:

Number of members who have been offered support meetings by the GL:	
Number of members who have accepted the offer of a support meeting by the GL:	

Consideration for this year compared to last year:

A copy of the form that was received by you last year has been attached.

Below, please explain what matters have **improved** this year?

--

A copy of the form that was received by you last year has been attached.

Below, please explain what matters you think **need further attention** during the next year?

--

Please send your report to the Monitoring Officer by emailing LynnBall@ynysmon.llyw.cymru**Signed by GL:** _____**Date:** _____

This section of the report is to be completed in your own words.

There is ***no need to include all the information listed below***. The matters which follow are included as examples of the type of information that you may wish to consider including as part of your response and based on the [Statutory Guidance](#) published by Welsh Government on the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

Personal commitment:

- demonstrated personal commitment by attending relevant development or training around equalities and standards, including the Code of Conduct;
- setting an example by demonstrating the principles of conduct in public life, including specifically politeness and respect;
- used your influence to promote a positive culture;
- promoted a culture within the group which supports high standards of conduct and integrity;
- addressed issues as soon as they arose;
- promoted civility and respect within group communications and meetings and in formal meetings of the Council;
- worked to implement any recommendations from the Standards Committee about improving standards;

Encouraging group members:

- encouraged group members to attend relevant development or training, particularly around equalities and standards, including the Code of Conduct;
- ensured nominees to a committee had received the recommended training for that committee;

Co-operation with others:

- promoted informal resolution procedures, and worked with the Standards Committee and Monitoring Officer to achieve local resolution;
- worked with the standards committee to recognise inappropriate behavioural patterns, give them consideration, and deal with these matters e.g. asking for, or suggesting appropriate training, asking to delete inappropriate message from social media pages or asking to consider apologising.
- attended a meeting of the Council's Standards Committee if requested to discuss Code of Conduct issues;
- attended meetings with the Monitoring Officer and/or other Group Leaders as necessary to discuss matters of conduct;
- worked together with other Group Leaders to collectively support high standards of conduct within the Council;

Other matters that could be relevant:

- You've revised the Ombudsman's Guidance on the Code of Conduct during the year. You've encouraged members of your Group to do the same.
- You've considered the Standards Committee's Newsletters during the year. You've encouraged members of your Group to do the same.

You're asked to attach relevant evidence. In compliance with the [Statutory Guidance by Welsh Government](#), evidence can include minutes from meetings, copies of correspondence, a review on members training on matters regarding equality and the Code of Conduct, and steps taken to deal with any gaps in that training.

- Selflessness
- Honesty
- Integrity and Propriety
- Duty to uphold the law
- Stewardship
- Objectivity in Decision making
- Equality and respect
- Openness
- Accountability
- Leadership

DRAFT

Mandatory Training Modules

- Code of Conduct *
- Cyber Security *
- Safeguarding #
- Data Protection
- Equality #
- Information Technology *
- Health and Safety

* = required within 6 months of a member being elected

= required within 12 months of a member being elected

In addition to:

- Information technology skills - which includes understanding the council's IT systems and equipment
- For all Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Council and its Committees:
 - Chairing Meetings for Chairs and Vice-chairs
Required on being elected as Chair / Vice-Chair and every two years if re-elected.
- The relevant training required for a member of a particular Committee including:
 - Planning Committee
 - Licensing Committee
 - Governance and Audit Committee
 - Appointments Committee

Members must complete and repeat the required mandatory training in accordance with details published by the Council.

AGENDA ITEM 11

CYNGOR SIR YNYS MON / ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
COMMITTEE:	Standards Committee
DATE:	12 June 2025
REPORT TITLE:	Code of Conduct Training for the Town and Community Councils
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:	To advise the Committee of the Code of Conduct training offered to the Town and Community Councils in Autumn 2024.
REPORT BY:	Mared Wyn Yaxley Legal Services Manager mwyys@ynysmon.llyw.cymru
LINK OFFICER:	Lynn Ball Director of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer lbxc@ynysmon.llyw.cymru

1. BACKGROUND

The statutory responsibilities of the Standards Committee include promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Councillors, assisting Councillors to observe their Code of Conduct and arranging to train Councillors on matters relating to the Code of Conduct. These are requirements which apply not only to members of the County Council but also to Town and Community Council members.

Elections were held for Councillors to all Town and Community Councils in the Isle of Anglesey on 5 May 2022. The Standards Committee arranged Code of Conduct training to Town and Community Councils in October 2022. A report was presented to the Standards Committee in relation to that training exercise on 14/12/2022 - a link to the report is available [here](#).

As part of its Work Programme for 2024-2025, the Standards Committee confirmed it would arrange further training by way of a mid-term Code of Conduct refresher training for Town and Community Councillors.

2. CODE OF CONDUCT

Every Town and Community Council must adopt a Code of Conduct. There is a model Code of Conduct for all relevant authorities in Wales; the content of that statutory Code is the minimum requirement. Each relevant authority can decide if it wishes to include additional requirements within their Code, but no Council can remove any provision included in the statutory Code. In reality, the majority of Councils adopt the statutory Code of Conduct as drafted.

Each member of a Council is required to sign an undertaking upon taking office as a Councillor confirming their commitment to act in accordance with their Council's adopted Code of Conduct.

3. TRAINING EVENTS

Online Code of Conduct training was arranged in Autumn 2024 via One Voice Wales, and offered by the Standards Committee to all Town and Community Council members and clerks. The sessions could accommodate up to 20 attendees and would last approximately 1.5 hours.

Correspondence was sent by the Chair of the Standards Committee to the Town and Community Councils on 15 July 2024 inviting them to attend one of four possible sessions:

Date	Day	Time	Language of event
14.10.2024	Monday	14.00	Welsh
23.10.2024	Wednesday	14:00	English
07.11.2024	Thursday	18:30	Welsh
19.11.2024	Tuesday	18.30	English

Clerks were asked to contact a specified officer from the County Council to confirm the names of those attendees wishing to undertake the training and their choice of session.

Further correspondence was sent to the Town and Community Councils in early September by way of a reminder.

The Standards Committee Chair referred to the offer as part of his presentation at the Town and Community Councils Liaison Forum on 19 September.

The offer of Code of Conduct training and the above arrangements were mentioned in the Standards Committee's September Newsletter which were sent to the Council's Clerks on 24 September.

Reminder e-mails were sent 1 week before each session.

4. ATTENDEES AND THEIR TOWN/COMMUNITY COUNCILS

The number of individuals that attended one of the four available sessions is as follows:

Date	Time	Language of event	Number of individuals that had registered their interest to attend the training	Number of individuals that attended the training session
14.10.2024	14:00	Welsh	12	08
23.10.2024	14:00	English	17	16
07.11.2024	18:30	Welsh	17	09
19.11.2024	18:30	English	20	15
			66	48

The table included in **Enclosure 1** details the number of attendees from each Town and Community Council.

Of the 80 spaces available for training, 66 spaces were reserved and 48 individuals attended the training. No members or clerks from 21 of the 40 Town and Community Councils on the Isle of Anglesey attended the training sessions being offered. However, 1 County Councillor attended in their capacity as Community Councillor but it is not clear which Community Council they would have been representing.

5. PREVIOUS TRAINING OFFERED

Code of Conduct Training was arranged for Town and Community Councils in October 2022 (following the May 2022 election). Of the 90 spaces available, 48 spaces were reserved, and 37 individuals attended the training. No Members or Clerks from 29 of the 40 Town and Community Councils on the Isle of Anglesey attended the training sessions being offered.

The update training in Autumn 2024 was a slight improvement on those numbers. However, it remains the case that almost half the Town and Community Councils in Anglesey were not represented at these recent training sessions.

The 20 Councils that did not have a representative in the training session in October 2022 nor in the training sessions in Autumn 2024 have been identified, shaded grey, on the table in **Enclosure 1**.

6. IS TRAINING ON THE CODE A REQUIREMENT?

Whilst attending training on the Code of Conduct is likely to be considered good practice by the Standards Committee, there is no statutory requirement for Councillors to participate in training on the Code. The statutory requirement is for the Standards Committee to ensure that training on the provisions of the Code of Conduct is available for Councillors.

The Standards Committee will be aware that the Code of Conduct for members of the Isle of Anglesey County Council includes a locally adopted requirement (it is not included in the statutory Code) for members to attend a training session on the Code of Conduct within six months of being elected –

You must attend at least one training session on this code of conduct during each full term of office, such attendance to take place during the six months following election in the case of those members elected to the County Council for the first time and those having been re-elected but without continuity of office. [Paragraph 4(e)]

Failure to comply with this provision would result in a member being vulnerable to a complaint of a breach of the Code of Conduct being made to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

However, each Town and Community Councillor will be subject to the Code of Conduct adopted by their respective Town or Community Council, and in all likelihood, that Code may not include such requirement to attend training.

7. BENEFITS OF TRAINING ON THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS

This issue of training on the Code of Conduct is a matter which has been raised at the Standards Committee's previous reviews at Town and Community Councils; the Standards Committee has encouraged Councils to consider their members' training requirements, in particular in relation to the Code of Conduct.

Attending such training assists Councillors by providing information on the contents of the Code of Conduct and how it affects them in their role as Councillors and in their personal lives; it also gives them an opportunity to gain practical knowledge and ask questions.

Should Councillors find themselves the subject of a complaint for a breach of the Code of Conduct, failure to have attended training on the Code would be considered an aggravating factor when the Standards Committee / Adjudication Panel for Wales deliberated on the issue of sanction [see Adjudication Panel for Wales' previously issued [Sanctions Guidance](#)].

It is also noted that there is a requirement on Community Councils to produce an annual training plan for its Councillors and staff (under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021). Whilst there is no requirement for training on the Code of Conduct to be featured in this training plan, it is likely that it would be included or at least considered for inclusion.

8. RECOMMENDATION

- A. For the Standards Committee to consider the content of this report and **Enclosure 1** and the information included particularly in relation to the (a) number of attendees at the training sessions and (b) the number of Town and Community Councils that did not have any attendees at the training sessions.

	Cyngor Tref a Chymuned / Town and Community Council	Nifer yr unigolion wnaeth gofrestru / Number of registered individuals	Nifer yr unigolion a fynychodd / Number of attendees
1	Cyngor Cymuned Aberffraw Community Council	3	1
2	Cyngor Tref Amlwch Town Council	1	0
3	Cyngor Tref Biwmares / Beaumaris Town Council	4	4
4	Cyngor Cymuned Bodedern Community Council	0	0
5	Cyngor Cymuned Bodffordd Community Council	0	0
6	Cyngor Cymuned Bodorgan Community Council	0	0
7	Cyngor Cymuned Bryngwran Community Council	0	0
8	Cyngor Tref Caergybi / Holyhead Town Council	2	1
9	Cyngor Cymuned Bro Cwm Cadnant Community Council	3	3
10	Cyngor Cymuned Bro Cylch y Garn Community Council	0	0
11	Cyngor Cymuned Llanbadrig Community Council	0	0
12	Cyngor Cymuned Llanddaniel-Fab Community Council	0	0
13	Cyngor Cymuned Llanddona Community Council	1	1
14	Cyngor Cymuned Llanddyfnan Community Council	0	0
15	Cyngor Cymuned Llaneilian Community Council	3	3
16	Cyngor Cymuned Llanerchymedd Community Council	1	1
17	Cyngor Cymuned Llaneugrad Community Council	0	0
18	Cyngor Cymuned Llanfachraeth Community Council	2	2
19	Cyngor Cymuned Llanfaelog Community Council	0	0
20	Cyngor Cymuned Llanfaethlu Community Council	0	0
21	Cyngor Cymuned Llanfair Mathafarn Eithaf Community Council	4	3
22	Cyngor Cymuned Llanfair yn Neubwl Community Council	1	1
23	Cyngor Cymuned Llanfairpwll Community Council	6	4
24	Cyngor Cymuned Llanfihangellesceifiog Community Council	4	3
25	Cyngor Tref Llangefni Town Council	4	4
26	Cyngor Cymuned Llangoed a Phenmon / Llangoed and Penmon Community Council	8	7
27	Cyngor Cymuned Llangristiolus Community Council	2	1
28	Cyngor Cymuned Llanidan Community Council	0	0
29	Cyngor Cymuned Mechell Community Council	1	0
30	Cyngor Cymuned Moelfre Community Council	1	0
31	Cyngor Cymuned Penmynydd a Star / Penmynydd and Star Community Council	0	0
32	Cyngor Cymuned Pentraeth Community Council	5	3
33	Cyngor Tref Porthaethwy / Menai Bridge Town Council	3	3
34	Cyngor Cymuned Rhoscolyn Community Council	1	1
35	Cyngor Cymuned Rhosybol Community Council	0	0
36	Cyngor Rhosyr Council	0	0
37	Cyngor Bro Trearddur Community Council	0	0
38	Cyngor Cymuned Tref Alaw Community Council	1	0
39	Cyngor Cymuned Bro Trewalchmai Community Council	0	0
40	Cyngor Cymuned Y Fali / Valley Community Council	3	1
	Cynghorwyr Sir / County Councillors	2	1
	CYFANSWM / TOTAL	66	48

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PRAWF BUDD Y CYHOEDD PUBLIC INTEREST TEST

Cwynion am ymddygiad at Ombwdsmon Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cymru (OGCC) lle cafodd hysbysiadau o benderfyniadau eu cyflwyno i'r Cyngor yn ystod chwarter 4 2024/2025

Conduct Complaints to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) where decision notices have been issued to the Council during quarter 4 of 2024/2025

Paragraffau 12 ac 13 Atodlen 12A Deddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972 Paragraphs 12 and 13 Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972	
Y prawf - The test	
<p>Mae budd i'r cyhoedd o ddatgelu oherwydd:</p> <p>Mae disgwyliad rhesymol i'r Pwyllgor Safonau fod yn dryloyw mewn perthynas â'r materion a drafodir ganddo.</p> <p>Mae'r Pwyllgor Safonau yn ystyried adroddiadau mewn perthynas â chwynion a dderbyniwyd gan Ombwdsmon Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cymru mewn perthynas â Chynghorwyr Sir a Chynghorwyr Tref a Chymuned. Bydd yr adroddiad fel arfer yn ddienw ac yn cael ei rannu â'r Pwyllgor Safonau er mwyn adnabod lefelau ac unrhyw dueddiadau sy'n codi. Mae hyn yn parhau i gael ei rannu â'r Pwyllgor yn gyhoeddus (Eitem 5 ar agenda'r cyfarfod hwn).</p> <p>There is a public interest in disclosure as:</p> <p>The business of the Standards Committee is connected with a reasonable expectation of transparency in respect of the matters discussed.</p> <p>The Standards Committee considers reports in relation to the complaints received by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales for both County Councillors and Town and Community Councillors. The report is usually anonymised and is shared with the Standards Committee to identify levels and any trends arising. This continues to be shared with the Committee publicly (agenda item 5 for this meeting).</p>	<p>Y budd i'r cyhoedd o beidio datgelu yw:</p> <p>Mae'r adroddiad yn cynnwys gwybodaeth sy'n ymwneud ag unigolion penodol ac mae'n debygol o ddatgelu pwy yw'r unigolion hyn.</p> <p>Mae budd i'r cyhoedd o beidio â datgelu trwy osgoi'r tebygolrwydd y byddai datgelu'n arwain at adnabod yr unigolion, neu'n arwain at wneud datgeliad am unigolion mewn modd a fyddai'n groes i'r darpariaethau peidio â datgelu yn Neddf Diogelu Data y DU 2018.</p> <p>Mae cyfarwyddyd Ombwdsmon Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cymru wrth anfon y Rhybudd Penderfyniad yn nodi gellir ei rannu gyda'r Pwyllgor Safonau'n breifat.</p> <p>The public interest in not disclosing is:</p> <p>The report contains information that relates to particular individuals and is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.</p> <p>The public interest in not disclosing is served by averting the likelihood that disclosure would result in the identification of individuals or result in the disclosure about individuals in a way that would breach the non-disclosure provisions of the UK Data Protection Act 2018.</p> <p>The instruction from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales when sending the Decision Notice details that it may be shared with the Standards Committee privately.</p>
<p>Argymhelliad – Mae'r budd i'r cyhoedd wrth gadw'r eithriad o bwys mwy na'r budd i'r cyhoedd wrth ddatgelu'r wybodaeth.</p> <p>Recommendation - The public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.</p>	

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PRAWF BUDD Y CYHOEDD

PUBLIC INTEREST TEST

PROSES APWYNTIO AELODAU ANNIBYNNOL I WASANAETHU AR Y PWYLLGOR SAFONAU

APPOINTMENTS PROCESS FOR INDEPENDENT MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

<p>Paragraff 14 Atodlen 12A Deddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972 Paragraph 14 Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972</p>	
Y PRAWF – THE TEST	
<p>Mae yna fudd i'r cyhoedd wrth ddatgelu oherwydd / There is a public interest in disclosure as:-</p> <p>Nid mater ar gyfer y Pwyllgor Safonau yw penodi aelodau annibynnol ar y Pwyllgor; gwneir y gwaith hwn gan y Panel Dethol penodedig, sy'n cynnwys aelod annibynnol, cynrychiolydd o'r cynghorau tref a chymuned lleol a thri aelod etholedig o'r Cyngor Sir (ar sail cydbwysedd gwleidyddol). Fodd bynnag, mae gan aelodau annibynnol y Pwyllgor Safonau brofiad o weithredu a chredir byddai'n ddefnyddiol petaent yn cael cyfle i drafod y broses recriwtio, sy'n cynnwys pa elfennau fyddai'n ddefnyddiol mewn unrhyw gyfweiliad, gyda'r bwriad o gryfhau'r broses a ddilynir yn lleol. Bwriedir rhannu adborth y Pwyllgor Safonau gyda'r Panel Dethol maes o law. Mae trafodaethau'r Panel Dethol yn gyffredinol yn gyhoeddus.</p> <p>Mae angen tryloywder wrth benodi aelodau cyfetholedig i'r Pwyllgor Safonau oherwydd y rôl arwyddocaol sydd gan y Pwyllgor mewn perthynas â llywodraethiant ac ymddygiad cynghorwyr sir etholedig a chynghorwyr y cynghorau tref a chymuned.</p> <p>The appointment of independent members to the Standards Committee is not a matter for the Committee; this work is done by the appointed Selection Panel, which includes an independent member, a local town and community council representative and three elected members from the County Council (based on political balance). However, independent members of the Standards Committee have experience in its operation, and it is believed that it would be useful for them to have an opportunity to discuss the recruitment process, including which elements would be useful in any interview, with the intention of strengthening the process undertaken locally. The Standards Committee's feedback will be shared with the Selection Panel in due course. The Selection Panel's discussions are generally held in public.</p> <p>There is a requirement for transparency in the</p>	<p>Y budd i'r cyhoedd with beidio datgelu yw / The public interest in not disclosing is:-</p> <p>Trafodaeth yn unig a geir yma; gwneir argymhellion gan y Pwyllgor Safonau i'r Panel Dethol ond nid oes penderfyniad yn cael ei wneud gan y Pwyllgor Safonau. Bydd y materion a gaiff eu trafod yn destun penderfyniad gan y Panel Dethol maes o law. Y Cyngor llawn sy'n penodi'r aelod annibynnol, ar sail argymhelliad y Panel Dethol.</p> <p>O fewn yr eitem hon, bydd y broses recriwtio, sy'n cynnwys ystyried pynciau neu gwestiynnau cyfweiliad addas, yn cael eu trafod. Er mwyn sicrhau proses recriwtio lwyddiannus, mae'n rhesymol fod y broses ac unrhyw ofynion a chwestiynnau cyfweiliad yn cael eu holi ar y pryd er mwyn i'r ymgeisydd gorau gael eu dewis. Mae disgwyliad rhesymol fod pob ymgeisydd yn cael ei drin yn deg o fewn proses recriwtio. Byddai unrhyw ymgeisydd sydd efo manylion ymlaen llaw yn cael mantais dros ymgeisydd nad yw'n gwybod y cwestiynnau ymlaen llaw. Mae'n bosib y gallai ymgeisydd aflwyddiannus gymryd camau petai'n dod i'r amlwg eu bod nhw wedi bod o dan anfantais oherwydd nad oeddent yn ymwybodol o'r broses yn llawn ymlaen llaw.</p> <p>Mae'n rhesymol disgwyl y gallai cyhoeddi manylion cychwynnol, neu drafod cwestiynnau cyfweiliad posib, yn hollol gyhoeddus olygu y byddai'r broses recriwtio yn cael ei handwyo.</p> <p>Bydd llawer o'r broses recriwtio gaiff ei gynnal gan y Panel Dethol yn y parth cyhoeddus. Unwaith bydd y cyfweiliadau wedi eu cynnal, bydd manylion am y penodiadau terfynol yn cael eu cyhoeddi.</p> <p>This will be a discussion only; with recommendations being made by the Standards Committee to the Selection Panel. No decision will be made by the Standards Committee. The issues under discussion will be decided by the Selection Panel in due course. The independent member will be appointed by full</p>

<p>appointment of co-opted members to the Standards Committee, given the significant role played by the Committee in relation to governance and conduct of elected county councillors and town and community councillors.</p>	<p>Council, based on the Selection Panel's recommendation.</p> <p>Within this item, the recruitment process, including the consideration of appropriate interview topics or questions, will be discussed. So as to ensure a successful recruitment process, it is reasonable for the process and any requirements and interview questions to be revealed at the time so that the best applicant is chosen. There is a reasonable expectation that each applicant is treated fairly within a recruitment process. Any applicant with previous knowledge before the interview itself would have an advantage over any applicant who does not have previous knowledge of the questions. It is possible for an unsuccessful applicant to take further action should it become apparent that they have been disadvantaged by not having previous knowledge of the full process beforehand.</p> <p>It is reasonable to expect that publishing the initial details or discussing possible interview questions publicly could result in the recruitment process being harmed.</p> <p>Much of the recruitment process undertaken by the Selection Panel will be in the public domain. Once interviews have been conducted, the details of the final appointments will be made public.</p>
<p>Argymhelliad - Mae budd y cyhoedd wrth gadw'r eithriad o bwys mwy na budd y cyhoedd wrth ddatgelu'r wybodaeth.</p> <p>Recommendation - The public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.</p>	

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