

CYNGOR SIR YNYS MON / ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE:	Standards Committee
DATE:	15 December 2021
REPORT TITLE:	S62-63 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:	To inform the Committee of changes to the statutory ethical framework introduced by Part 4 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.
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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (“the Act”) introduces new provisions as part of a reform of the legislative framework establishing new duties and governance requirements.
- 1.2 Different provisions of the Act come into force at different times during 2021/22 and 2022/23.
- 1.3 Part 4 of the Act places a new duty on Leaders of political groups and these are due to take effect from 5 May 2022.

2. ISSUES

- 2.1 Part 4 s.67 of the new Act requires the Leaders of political groups to take reasonable steps to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by the members of their group; and to cooperate with the Standards Committee.
- 2.2 Part 4 s.63 of the new Act requires the Standards Committee to produce, as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of each financial year, an annual report.

Such report is to describe how the Committee's functions have been discharged during the financial year. The content of which includes:

- 2.2.1 what has been done to discharge the functions conferred on the Standards Committee;
- 2.2.2 the Standards Committee's assessment of the extent to which political group Leaders have complied with their own duty under Part 4, and
- 2.2.3 To advise, train or organise training for Leaders of political groups in relation to these duties.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 There is an established arrangement to report on Member conduct but not on the new expectations on Group Leaders.
- 3.2 The Standards Committee submits reports to the Council for their Annual Meeting. The last one was submitted in May 2021

4. RECOMMENDATION/S

In order to strengthen the new duty on Group Leaders, it is proposed that the Committee considers a review of its Terms of Reference and its monitoring framework. Such work to be undertaken once the Standards Committee has seen the final Welsh Government Guidance to Group Leaders on the exercise of their new duties. This is currently in draft and there is not yet a published date for consultation.