

CYNGOR SIR YNYS MON / ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE:	Standards Committee
DATE:	13 December 2023
REPORT TITLE:	Update on the National Standards Committee Forum for Wales
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:	As above
REPORT BY:	Mared Wyn Yaxley Solicitor – Corporate Governance mwycs@ynysmon.llyw.cymru
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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.
- 1.3 The Monitoring Officers from the North Wales authorities attend on a rota basis in order to provide professional advice.

2. FORUM MEETINGS

- 2.1 Two meetings have been held to date; on 27 January 2023 and 30 June 2023.
- 2.2 The Forum meeting on 27 January 2023 was discussed at the last Standards Committee meeting in June.
- 2.3 Notes of the June 2023 Forum meeting were shared with the Standards Committee members and discussed at a Standards Committee informal meeting in July 2023.
- 2.4 Following this discussion, the Standards Committee decided to write to the Forum in relation to two matters. A copy of the correspondence sent to the Forum's administrator is included at **Enclosure 1**.
- 2.5 The next Forum meeting is scheduled on 29 January 2024. Mr John R Jones, as Chair of this Standards Committee, will be attending.

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.

ENCLOSURE 1

Ar gyfer: Fforwm Pwyllgorau Safonau Cenedlaethol / For the attention of: National Standards Committee Forum

I submit a request on behalf of the Isle of Anglesey County Council's Standards Committee for the next meeting of the Forum (January 2024) please.

1. There was a good discussion at the last Forum meeting in June 2023 regarding supporting Town and Community Councils with conduct matters. The majority of Town and Community Councils in this area are members of One Voice Wales and we assume that the pattern is repeated nationally. Considering this, and that One Voice Wales offers comprehensive support to the Town and Community Councils, would it be possible to arrange for a representative from One Voice Wales to attend the next Forum meeting?

The representative is asked to present:

- a. General information about the offer made by One Voice Wales to the Town and Community Councils they support; and
- b. Specific details about behaviour / Code of Conduct matters; such as:
 1. What documentation / resources has One Voice Wales for TCCs in relation to behaviour?
 2. What are One Voice Wales' processes for sharing these resources? Is it only done on request and in what format?
 3. Does One Voice Wales offer training on behaviour / code of conduct for members? If so, how is this offered? How is this provided i.e. classroom / online? How often are sessions held? What is the cost?
 4. One Voice Wales has a local resolution protocol that is encouraged by the Ombudsman for use in the TCCs. What support is offered to the TCCs/ Clerk / TCC members on this process? Is there mediation training available?
 5. Any other form of support to TCCs on conduct matters by One Voice Wales offers.

The intention would be to cascade this information with the local Community Councils, whilst also raising awareness with the Standards Committee.

2. This matter arises following recent discussions with Group Leaders in relation to their new duties under the 2021 Act.

WLGA is arranging training for Group Leaders.

- a. What is the timetable for this Training?
- b. Would it be possible for the Standards Committee to have access to this Training (or the resources) for the Group Leaders too, so that they are aware of what the Group Leaders have been advised?

With thanks for considering the request.

Yours sincerely

John R Jones
Chair – Isle of Anglesey Standards Committee