

CYNGOR SIR YNYS MON / ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
COMMITTEE:	Standards Committee
DATE:	18 June 2026
REPORT TITLE:	Standards Committee Annual Report 2025 -26
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:	For the Standards Committee to approve the draft Annual Report and approve presentation to the next full Council meeting
REPORT BY:	Lisa Lord Legal Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer (Locum) lisalord@ynysmon.llyw.cymru
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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 There is a statutory requirement for the Standards Committee to present an annual report to full Council.
- 1.2 A draft report has been prepared for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.
- 1.3 Statutory guidance has been issued under section 54(7) of the Local Government Act 2000. The statutory guidance has been considered in drafting the report. All matters prescribed in legislation have been covered in the draft, save that the information in relation to the Group Leaders duty will be added following the individual meetings with the Independent (lay) Members of the Committee and the Group Leaders, as indicated in the report.
- 1.4 It is envisaged that the final report, including the assessment of the Group Leaders duty will be presented to full Council in September 2026.

2. RECOMMENDATION

For the Standards Committee to agree

- i. the contents of the draft annual report and enclosures
- ii. to authorise that the report be updated with the information obtained and assessment formed during the meetings with the individual Group Leaders. The wording of any such updates to be agreed with the Chair of Standards Committee
- iii. that any further changes are made in accordance with the Chair's instructions, following consultation with the Monitoring Officer
- iv. that the annual report be presented to full Council in September 2026

Standards Committee Annual Report

1. Foreword / Chair's Introduction

Welcome to the annual report of Anglesey County Council's Standards Committee for April 2025 – March 2026, completed in line with the requirements of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

The Committee has an independent role in supporting ethical governance specifically focusing on the Committee's statutory requirement to promote and maintain high standards of conduct amongst Anglesey County Councillors and Town and Community Councillors. This report gives a comprehensive overview of the work accomplished by the Standards Committee during the year.

The Committee's overall assessment is positive.

Over the last 12 months, the Committee has been concerned about the length of time taken to resolve complaints to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW). The Standards Committee is encouraged by the announcement that the PSOW is taking steps to resolve delays. The impact on the resolution of complaints will be monitored by the Committee.

During the year, the Committee undertook its first hearing into an alleged breach of the councillors' code of conduct since 2014.

A change to the Code of Conduct was made to encompass all protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 and socio economic factors. We will see the impact of these changes in the next year.

The Committee remains committed to supporting Councillors with compliance with the Code of Conduct and considers that training is a key element in developing strong ethical governance. It is hoped that the Committee's efforts ensures that the requirements of the Code are clear to all members, and that this will assist them as they work for the benefit of the area and its citizens.

During the year Mr John Robert Jones's term of office concluded. I would like to thank Mr Jones for his contribution and dedication to the Committee.

In December 2025, following a competitive process we were pleased to welcome Mr David Davies to the Committee as an Independent (lay) Member.

I would like to thank the elected, co-opted and lay members of the County Council and Town and Community Councils, and Officers and Committee Officers for their cooperation with conduct issues once again this year.

I hope that you find the work of the committee, and this report, interesting. Further information about the committee, including agendas, reports and meeting minutes can be found on the [Council's website](#).

Trefor Owen
Chair of Standards Committee

2. Role and Responsibilities of the Standards Committee

It is a statutory requirement for the County Council to have a Standards Committee.

The Standards Committee function can be summarised as a duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members of the County Council and Town and Community Councils and to assist members in complying with the Code of Conduct. The [Terms of Reference](#) for the Standards Committee are available can be found on the Council's website.

The Committee works closely with the Monitoring Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer.

The Standards Committee receives quarterly reports on the PSOW Code of Conduct cases and deals with referrals from PSOW.

The Standards Committee provides independent assurance to the Council through this annual report.

3. Committee Membership and Meetings

The Standards Committee is a statutory Committee with 9 members, with a mix of Independent Members, Town and Community Council Members and County Council Members.

Current Membership

Independent Members*

- [Mr Trefor Owen](#) (Cadeirydd/Chair)
- [Mr Brace Griffiths](#) (Is-Gadeirydd/Vice-Chair)
- [Mr Rhys Davies](#)
- [Mr David Davies](#) (from 12 December 2025)
- [Mrs Gill Murgatroyd](#)

Community Council Members

- [Councillor Iorwerth Roberts](#)
- [Councillor Margaret Thomas](#)

County Council Members

- [Councillor Margaret Murley Roberts](#)
- [Councillor Dafydd Rhys Thomas](#)

*Mr John Robert Jones' (Independent Member) term of office ended December 2025.

Further information regarding the Standards Committee is available on the [Council's website](#). There is a written role description for the [Chair of Standards Committee](#) and [Standards Committee Members](#).

Meetings

The Standards Committee held the following meetings:

Standards Committee	2
Dispensation Panel	2
Standards Committee Local Hearing	1
Informal Committee	2

The Council recruited a new Independent (lay) Member to Standards Committee, Mr David Davies. Four meetings of the [Standards Committee -Selection Panel](#) were held as part of this process. The Standards Committee is grateful for the contributions of Councillor Margaret Murley Roberts, Councillor Aled Morris Jones, Councillor Dylan Rees, Mrs Ann Kennedy and Dr Teleri Jones in conducting this process.

4. Monitoring Officer Support and Arrangements

The Monitoring Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer provide support to the Standards Committee. In addition, to the Committee meetings there are regular meetings with the Chair of the Standards Committee.

The Monitoring Officer has sufficient resources to be able to action the agreed Work Programme. If there is an increase in local hearings or Monitoring Officer responsibilities resources will need to be reviewed.

In addition to the Standards Committee and Monitoring Officer the promotion of Code of Conduct and the ethical governance framework at Anglesey County Council is supported by a range of services including Democratic/Committee Services and Training and Development.

5. Code of Conduct Complaints

PSOW Code of Conduct complaints summary 2025/26		
	County Council	Town and Community Councils
Complaints received	0*	14
No action/complaint should not be investigated	0	7 (initial outcome pending in relation to 7 as at 31 March 2026)
Investigation	0	0 (as at 31 March 2026)
Hearing	0**	0 (as at 31 March 2026)

*There is one ongoing complaint in relation to a County Council member that was first notified to the Council outside of the reporting period (8 February 2024) and the PSOW continues to investigate.

**A hearing was held in the reporting period in relation to a County Council member on 16 May 2025, in relation to a matter first notified outside of the reporting period (9 August 2023).

This represents a decrease in relation to County Council Code of Conduct complaints (4 previous year) and a significant increase in relation to Town and Community Council Code of Conduct complaints (4 previous year). The initial outcome in relation to 7 Code of Conduct complaints was outstanding at the end of the reporting period.

In accordance with the Committee's commitment to a proactive approach, the trends and any reasons for the increase in Town and Community Council Code of Conduct complaints will be explored once the PSOW has concluded any actions.

No notices from the Adjudication Panel for Wales were received.

6. Hearings and Determinations

One hearing was held in the reporting period in relation to a County Council member on 16 May 2025.

The hearing related to a matter first notified to the Council by the PSOW on 9 August 2023.

The [report](#) and [minutes](#) in relation to hearing have been published.

There was no appeal and the actions arising from the meeting have been completed to the satisfaction of the Standards Committee.

7. The Committee's achievements during the year

The Standards Committee's Programme of Work 2025-26, detailing the Committee's actions during the year against its aims, is available at **ENCLOSURE 1**.

Particular attention is drawn to the following matters:

Local Resolution Protocol

The focus in relation to the Local Resolution Protocol (LRP) has been the operation of the LRP in Town and Community Councils. Representatives of the Committee attended a number of sessions and Workshops hosted by Welsh Government. These sessions brought together Town and Community Council Clerks, Town and Community Council Chairs, Monitoring Officers, PSOW, Standards Committee representatives, Welsh Government Policy representatives, One Voice Wales and other sector representatives. Further sessions are planned and the Committee will continue to contribute to these developments where possible.

During the reporting period, whilst concerns regarding Members were brought to the attention of the Chair, there were no requests for the 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.

A process for anonymised statistical reporting on matters dealt with under the LRP has been established.

Advice on training for Members and Group Leaders

The Committee receives a regular report from the Learning and Development Service in relation to Member and Group Leader training.

Mandatory training, designated by Democratic Services Committee, is monitored by the committee and reports are provided to Group Leaders as required.

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

The Safeguarding training requirements for elected members has been reviewed in accordance with the Social Care Wales training framework standards.

Good progress has been made with the development plan for Group Leaders.

Work with Town and Community Councils

The Standards Committee has sought to engage with Town and Community Councils in relation to Code of Conduct training. Online training sessions were arranged during 2025 via One Voice Wales, and offered by the Standards Committee to all Town and Community Council members and clerks. 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.

The Committee requested that Town and Community Councils consider making amendments to their codes of conduct, so that members are required to attend a training session on the Code of Conduct at least once in every term, and preferably within six months of each local government election.

The Standards Committee requested copies of the Town and Community Council's annual report and training plans.

Town and Community Council observation/visits has been added to the Programme of Work for 2026-27. This is part of the Standards Committee's commitment to proactive and preventative work within the framework of the statutory remit of the Committee.

The Chair and/or Vice Chair of Standards Committee attends and presents to the Town and Community Council Forum meetings.

Dispensations

Two Dispensation Panels were conducted in 2025-26. The Dispensations were granted in both cases.

A copy of the [report](#) and [minutes](#) in relation to the meeting have been published.

Communication

The Chair and/or Vice-Chair regularly attend Group Leader meetings to provide briefings , consult and seek feedback as required. The Committee is grateful to the Group Leaders for facilitating these arrangements.

A summary of the decisions taken at committee, together with links to the reports and highlighting PSOW decisions is sent to members following committee meetings. A similar summary focused on matters relevant to Town and Community Councils is sent to Chairs and Clerks following committee meetings.

Training

The Committee is very supportive of training and development to support ethical governance. This proactive approach is highlighted by the standing inclusion of a report from Training and Development at each Standards Committee. Training on the Code of Conduct is made available for new Councillors and new Independent (lay) Members

8. Assessment of Group Leaders' Duty

To be added following meeting of the Independent members with Group Leaders

9. Priorities for the Coming Year

The Standards Committee's proposed Work Programme for 2026-2027 is at **ENCLOSURE 2**.

The Committee will, of course, prioritise its work and direct resources to ensure that it continues to meet its statutory requirements and shall continue to support members of the Council and Town and Community Councils in complying with the requirements under their Code of Conduct.

Standards Committee's Proposed Work Programme for 2025/2026

No	Items	Action/Aim	Progress
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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed • Reported to full Council 25/09/2025 • Copy sent to PSOW
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"> • No call during 2025/26
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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed • Offered and taken up • Regular reports to Standards Committee on progress
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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed

		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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefing notes are sent to IOACC members and Town and Community Councils following formal Standards Committee meetings
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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed as detailed in Annual Report
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 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"> Completed
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">
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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This has been added to the work programme for 26/27
11	Dispensations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As and when applications arise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed when required – as detailed in Annual Report.
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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information included in briefing note to members

		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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed
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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed
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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Governmental timetable for further action. No further information received
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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Head of Democracy presents a report to each Standards Committee
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, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to capacity this has not been completed within the reporting period but will be part of the work programme for 26/27

		<p>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>	
21	<p>Access to information about the Standards Committee on the County Council</p>	<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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current information is up to date. Added to work programme for 26/27 to review.
23	<p>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.</p>	<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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hearing completed – as detailed in Annual Report.
24	<p>Matters arising from discussions with Group Leaders in preparing the Standard Committee's Annual Report to the full Council.</p>	<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). • Amend form to be completed by Group Leaders to aid completion • Review training offer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed

Standards Committee's Proposed Work Programme for 2026/2027

No	Items	Outputs	Actions
STANDING AGENDA ITEMS			
1.	Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meet the statutory requirements – hold at least 1 meeting per year ▪ Hold sufficient formal meetings as required for the business of the Committee (anticipated to be 2 in accordance with usual practice) ▪ Informal meetings may also be arranged, as required 	
2.	Complaints reporting – Quarterly Update Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report to Standards Committee ▪ Analysis of trends (to the extent that this can be done while maintaining PSOW and DPA confidentiality requirements) 	
3.	PSOW Case Reporting (all Wales)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quarterly report to Standards Committee 	
4.	APW Case Reporting (all Wales)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quarterly report to Standards Committee 	
5.	Dispensation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quarterly report to Standards Committee 	
6.	The Standards Committee's Annual Report to full Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Standards Committee Annual Report for 2025/2026 ▪ Group Leader meetings 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 ▪ Report to Standards Committee ▪ Report to Full Council ▪ Copy sent to PSOW 	
7.	Members Annual Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To encourage the practice of completing Annual Reports ▪ To support the Head of Democratic Services 	
8.	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. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 	

TRAINING		
9.	Monitor and review the offer and provision of training to leaders of political groups.	<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.
10.	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.
11.	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.
COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SHARING		
12.	How to Complain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee to review public information on 'how to complain'
13.	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 to meet with Group Leaders after each Standards Committee meeting and at other times as required
14.	Communication with IOACC / Town and Community Council Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary to be circulated following each Standards Committee
FORUMS		
15.	Town and Community Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair and/or Vice Chair to attend Forum Meetings to present matters of interest from the Standards Committee to the Town and Community Councils.
16.	National Standards Committee Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair to attend Forum meetings and provide feedback to Standards Committee Members.
AS AND WHEN REQUIRED		
17.	Respond to requests made in relation to the investigations being conducted by Public Services Ombudsman for Wales as a result of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take any necessary action in relation to PSOW matter as they arise during the year

	complaints against County Councillors / Community Councillors.		
18.	Dispensation Panels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As and when applications arise 	
19.	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 	
20.	Observation of the Council and its Committee meetings from time to time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attendance at meetings of the County Council or its Committees for observation to support the remit and aim to promote the highest standards of behaviour ▪ Feedback, where appropriate to be provided to the Chair of the Committee ▪ Anonymised report to Standards Committee 	
PLANNED WORK			
21.	Penn report / WG consultation on ethical matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitor and follow up as required 	
22.	Observation of Town and Community Council meetings from time to time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attendance at meetings of Town and Community Council for observation to support the remit and aim to promote the highest standards of behaviour ▪ Feedback to be provided to the Chair and/or Clerk where appropriate ▪ Anonymised report to Standards Committee 	
23.	Support the Democratic Services Committee's work as it encourages County Council members' wellbeing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To support the Democratic Services Committee 	
24.	Gifts and Hospitality Register – increase the registration value to £25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report to Executive (consultation) ▪ Report to Council 	
25.	Review Independent Member recruitment forms and guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review Independent Member recruitment forms and guidance to reflect legislative changes in relation to the qualification criteria 	