

PAPUR/ENCLOSURE
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Un Llais Cymru / One Voice Wales
24 College Street
Amanford
SA18 3AF

Dear Sirs

RE: the Standards Committee Forum North Wales (“SCFNW”)

As you will be aware, section 55 of the Local Government (Democracy) Wales Act 2013 (currently awaiting a commencement order) indicates that community councils must make certain information available electronically on their website (to include information on their members, minutes of meetings, audits and statements of the Council’s accounts). Upon a commencement order being introduced, many community councils will have to implement a website for the first time, and will have very little or no experience on this. No doubt when it comes to the statutory requirements of the changes, you will provide assistance to Community Councils on how to update their websites. In addition to this, we believe that it would be very helpful if you could provide specific copy on the following ethical arrangements relevant to community councils:-

- (i) details on the code of conduct requirements as applicable to community councillors;
- (ii) details on how members of the public can lodge complaints against community councils; and
- (iii) information on the jurisdiction of (a) Local Authorities’ Standards’ Committee and (b) the Adjudication Panel for Wales in hearing complaints against community councils.

We suggest that the best time to produce this information would be when the commencement is introduced.

On another note, the SCFNW is also concerned by the number of complaints received by local authorities in North Wales relating to the administrative failings of Community Councils. We believe it would be very helpful to Community Councils if One Voice Wales could assist in publishing a Toolkit akin to the one which was previously provided by the Standards Board for England for community councils, a copy of which can be found here:-
[INSERT LINK]

We have also sent a copy of this letter to the Welsh Local Government Association for their information and look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

Kind regards

Yours faithfully

The Chair of the North Wales Standards' Committee Forum

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