

CYNGOR SIR YNYS MON / ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING:	Standards Committee
DATE:	16th September 2015
TITLE OF REPORT:	North Wales Standards Committee Forum
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:	Update on North Wales Standards Committee Forum - 16th June 2015
REPORT BY:	Committee Chairman
CONTACT OFFICER:	Lynn Ball, lbxcs@anglesey.gov.uk 01248 752586

1. INTRODUCTION

This Report is designed to update members of the standards committee on the meeting of the North Wales Standards Committee Forum on the 16th June 2015

2. CONTEXT

The meeting followed the prepared Agenda which is attached at **ENCLOSURE 1**.

2.1 Re-organisation of Local Government - No comments were received in respect of the consultation on reorganisation of local government in Wales pending further proposals from Welsh Government.

2.2 Training - All members of the Forum contributed to a discussion on training for clerks of community councils and elected members of local authorities, including community councils.

Some training for county councillors has been made compulsory (for example, in respect of Finance and Planning) to ensure as full attendance as possible. Some councils also indicated that in some instances members were not being allowed to sit on particular committees without having had the relevant training.

There was some concern that those in community councils were not attending sufficient training and a discussion took place as to how this could be improved; either by way of "cluster" meetings, more focused training to meet particular needs, e.learning packages, attendance at other councils' training events, provision of hard copies of the code of conduct, regular communications from monitoring officers raising awareness of any new matters.

One particular concern, in areas where there are substantial numbers of community councils, was the pressure on the monitoring officers time if they were to attend to provide the training. It would appear unrealistic for the monitoring officers to cover all the training.

County councillors had individual training records which set out annually what training each member had attended. This is also reported annually to the public. (**ENCLOSURE 2**). There are no training records for community councils presently.

2.3 Code of Conduct

The latest Guidance from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (Ombudsman) was considered.

It was felt that the content in some respects might be confusing for community council members.

At present the version is electronic only.

It was suggested that county councils ensure that a hard copy of the Guidance is available to all community councils.

There was some uncertainty as to whether the Ombudsman had contacted all community councils to provide them with a link to the latest version; in which case they could print it off if they so wished.

It was suggested that One Voice Wales may be able to fund and produce an e.learning package on the code of conduct as they had done for freedom of information and data protection previously.

2.4 Regional Standards Committees

As a result of two questions being put to the meeting by the Anglesey representatives, there was a discussion as to the feasibility, and current appetite, for regional standards committees.

Presently the law surrounding this is not yet in force. However even when it does come into force it will only be a power to set up regional standards committees and will not be compulsory.

Owing to the imminent announcement from Welsh Government concerning reorganisation in Wales it was thought by the Forum that if councils in North Wales were to be reorganised in future that the standards aspect would need to be considered in the light of that and would be something that needed to align itself with future plans. It was thought that no council would wish to agree to set up regional standards committees pending the final model of reorganisation.

If regional standards committees were to be set up in future there would have to be a legal agreement between the relevant councils as to how it would operate and also the constitutions of the relevant councils would need to be changed by full council to reflect new arrangements.

2.5 At the end of the meeting the Chairman (Conwy) announced that he was standing down and that on the occasion of the next Forum Meeting this would be an Agenda Item for discussion and appointment of a new Chairperson.

2.6 The date and time of the next Forum Meeting to be arranged and agreed at a suitable date , time and venue to be agreed following the Standards Conference in October 2015

3. RECOMMENDATION

To note the report and to inform the standards committee chair and vice chair as to whether there are any issues which members of the committee would like to see raised at the next meeting of the regional Forum.

ATODIAD / ENCLOSURE
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Private Document Pack



North Wales Standards Committees Forum

Tuesday, 16 June 2015 at 2.00 pm

Conference Room 1a, County Hall, Ruthin.

To:-

Isle of Anglesey	Michael Wilson – Chair Islwyn Jones – Vice-Chair Lynn Ball – Monitoring Officer Robyn Jones – Deputy Monitoring Officer
Conwy	Howie Roberts – Chair (Chair) John Roberts – Vice-Chair Delyth Jones – Monitoring Officer Ceri Williams – Deputy Monitoring Officer
Denbighshire	Ian Trigger – Chair Rev. Wayne Roberts – Vice-Chair Gary Williams – Monitoring Officer Lisa Jones – Deputy Monitoring Officer
Flintshire	Edward Hughes – Chair Robert Dewey – Vice-Chair Gareth Owens – Monitoring Officer
Gwynedd	Gwilym Ellis Evans – Chair Sam Soysa – Vice-Chair Dilys Ann Phillips – Monitoring Officer Sion Huws – Propriety Officer
Wrexham	Rob Dawson – Chair Ceri Nash – Vice-Chair Trevor Coxon – Monitoring Officer Sioned Wyn Davies – Deputy Monitoring Officer
Fire and Rescue Authority	Jane Eyton-Jones – Chair
Snowdonia National Park	David Vaughan – Chair

A G E N D A

Note - In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, the Public and Press may be excluded from the meeting during consideration of items where exempt information is likely to be disclosed.

1. Apologies for absence

2. Minutes

To approve as a correct record minutes of the previous meeting.
(Pages 3 - 10)

3. Devolution, Democracy and Delivery White Paper - Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People

To receive the feedback on the extract of the White Paper consultation relating to Standards Committees. A summary of the White Paper is attached to the agenda, and a full copy is available here <http://bit.ly/1K7Qt3v>
(Pages 11 - 44)

- i) Gwynedd County Council (Page 45)
- ii) Conwy County Borough Council (Page 46)
- iii) Denbighshire County Council (Pages 47 - 48)
- iv) Isle of Anglesey County Council (Pages 49 - 65)
- v) Flintshire County Council (Pages 66 - 68)
- vi) Wrexham County Borough Council (Pages 69 - 80)

4. Public Services Ombudsman for Wales - Consultation Responses

- i) Conwy County Borough Council (Pages 81 - 85)
- ii) Isle of Anglesey County Council - See Item 3(iv) (Pages 49 - 65)
- iii) Wrexham County Borough Council (Pages 86 - 93)

5. Revised Guidance on Member Code of Conduct

To consider the revised guidance of the Ombudsman on the Member Code of Conduct. (Pages 94 - 180)

6. Open Session for Items of Current Interest

ATODIAD / ENCLOSURE
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Member's Annual Report 2014/15

This is the report by the Councillor below regarding his key activities over the year ending 31 March 2015. It is provided for the information of all constituents and for no other purpose. The views expressed in this report are those of the Councillor and not necessarily reflect the views of the Isle of Anglesey County Council.

Councillor:

Group:

Ward:

1 - Role & Responsibilities

Between April 2014 and March 2015, I sat on the following main committees / sub-committees:	¹ Attendance Figures

The statistics provided are relevant only to the committees listed in this table. The statistics do not include attendance at other meetings related to the work of the Council.

Attendance levels may vary due to the nature of work and responsibilities of members - as portfolio holder, committee chair or representing the Council on outside bodies, for example.

I am a member of the Isle of Anglesey Charitable Trust (I attended meetings).

I represent the Council on the following outside bodies:	Number of meetings arranged	Number attended

2 - Constituency Activity

¹ Attendance figures supplied by the Isle of Anglesey County Council

3 - Initiatives and Special Activities

4 - Learning and Development

I have attended the following learning and development initiatives during the past year (information supplied by the Isle of Anglesey County Council):

5 - Other Activities and Issues

Councillor

April 2015
