

Meeting of:	<b>Standards Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>Thursday, 21 March 2019</b>
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	No Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Report Title:	Feedback Report Following Observations of Council / Cabinet / Committee Meetings
Purpose of Report:	To provide the Committee with an update of the observations by Independent Standards Committee Members at Vale of Glamorgan Council meetings
Report Owner:	Mrs. Karen Bowen, Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer
Responsible Officer:	Ms. Debbie Marles, Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	This report does not require consultation to be undertaken
Policy Framework:	This is a matter for decision by the Standards Committee
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Standards Committee have resolved that Independent Members of the Standards Committee provide the Committee with updates of observations made at Vale of Glamorgan Council Meetings in respect of one of their roles in providing and maintaining high standards of conduct by Councillors, Co-Opted Members and Church and Parent Governors.</li> <li>• It is intended that Independent Members attend Vale of Glamorgan Council Meetings and report back to the Standards Committee on their findings on a regular basis.</li> </ul>	

## **Recommendation**

1. That the Standards Committee consider the information provided at the meeting and consider recommendations as necessary.

## **Reason for Recommendation**

1. Having regard to the observations undertaken.

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 There are a number of roles and functions of the Standards Committee, one of which is:
  - (a) To promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Councillors, Co-Opted Members and church and parent governor representatives of the Council.
- 1.2 In considering the Committee's work programme report at its meeting in January, 2018, the proposal for Independent Members of the Committee to observe Vale of Glamorgan Council meetings was agreed to be an appropriate opportunity to not only build on knowledge but to assist with the process of promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct
- 1.3 As part of the Committee's work programme, it was agreed that Independent Members would attend a number of Vale of Glamorgan Council meetings during the Municipal Year 2018/19 to observe meetings with a view to promote and maintain high standards of conduct in line with the Members' Code of Conduct.
- 1.4 Feedback reports would also be presented to the Standards Committee on a quarterly basis following the observations.

## **2. Key Issues for Consideration**

- 2.1 A copy of the calendar of meetings for 2018/19 and 2019/20 can be found on the Council's website at the link:  
[https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our\\_council/Council-Structure/minutes, agendas and reports/minutes, agendas and reports.aspx](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/Council-Structure/minutes,_agendas_and_reports/minutes,_agendas_and_reports.aspx)
- 2.2 Members are requested to consider the timetables and advise the Democratic Services Officer of their intentions to attend any of the meetings.
- 2.3 Independent Members will present verbal reports to the Committee advising of the observations undertaken and/or suggesting any recommendations for improvement.

### **3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?**

- 3.1** The role of the Standards Committee is to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Councillors, Co-Opted Members and Church and Parent Governor Representatives.

### **4. Resources and Legal Considerations**

#### **Financial**

- 4.1** Members will be remunerated for attendance under the allowance scheme agreed by the Independent Remuneration Panel and the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Constitution. Independent Members are able to claim for a maximum of 10 days per annum as detailed within the Council's Constitution.

#### **Employment**

- 4.2** Independent Members are appointed as Co-Opted Members to the Standards Committee and will be remunerated for attendance under the allowance scheme agreed by the Independent Remuneration Panel and the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Constitution. Independent Members are able to claim for a maximum of 10 days per annum as detailed within the Council's Constitution.

#### **Legal (Including Equalities)**

- 4.3** The Council has a duty to establish and maintain a Standards Committee as defined by legislation as set out in the Standards Committees Rules and Regulations 2001 and the Standards Committee (Wales) Amendment Regulations 2006.

### **5. Background Papers**

None.