

Meeting of:	Standards Committee
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 17 March 2022
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	No Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Report Title:	Standards Committee - Forward Work Programme
Purpose of Report:	To present to Members the Forward Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2022/23
Report Owner:	Ms. Debbie Marles, Monitoring Officer/ Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Responsible Officer:	Mrs. Karen Bowen, Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer
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"> The Standards Committee agreed to establish a Forward Work Programme for the Committee in March 2018 and attached to the report at Appendix 1 is the suggested Forward Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2022/23 for Committee's consideration. 	

Recommendation

1. That Members agree the Forward Work Programme attached at Appendix 1 to this report and / or make any amendments or additions as required.

Reason for Recommendation

1. To discuss and agree a Forward Work Programme.

1. Background

- 1.1** The role and function of the Standards Committee is
- (a) To promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Councillors, Co-Opted Members and church and parent governor representatives of the Council;
 - (b) To assist Councillors, Co-Opted Members and church and parent governor representatives of the Council to observe the Members' Code of Conduct;
 - (c) To advise the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct;
 - (d) To monitor the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct;
 - (e) To advise, train or arrange to train Councillors, Co-Opted Members and church and parent governor representatives of this Council on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct;
 - (f) To grant dispensations to Councillors, Co-Opted Members and church and parent governor representatives of this Council from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct.
 - (g) To deal with any reports from a case tribunal or interim case tribunal, and any report from the Monitoring Officer on any matter referred to that Officer by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales; and
 - (h) To exercise (a) to (g) above in relation to the Community Councils wholly or mainly in its area and the Members of those Community Councils.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1** Attached at Appendix 1 to the report is a suggested Forward Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2022/23 for the Committee's consideration and approval.
- 2.2** Standards Committee Members are reminded that the Council's Annual Meeting is scheduled to take place on 23rd May, 2022 and the appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chair of Standards Committee will be dealt with at the first meeting of the Standards Committee following the Annual Meeting.
- 2.3** Having regard to the provision at Section 63 (which comes into force on 5th May 2022) of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 that as soon as

reasonably practicable after the end of each financial year a standards committee must make an annual report to the Local Authority it is suggested that the Annual Report for 2022/23 be presented to the Standards Committee (following the Council's Annual Meeting) in June 2023 (date to be fixed) and reported to Full Council in July 2023 (date to be fixed). Committee is informed that the Vale of Glamorgan Council's calendar of meetings for 2023/24 is likely to be considered later in 2022.

- 2.4** For the Committee's information Members Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards framework training opportunities will be offered to Vale of Glamorgan Town and Community Council's to attend a training session to be run by the Monitoring officer and One Voice Wales with a feedback report to be presented to the June 2023 Standards Committee meeting.

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

- 3.1** As detailed in paragraph 1.1 of this report.

4. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 4.1** There are no financial implications as a direct consequence of this report.

Employment

- 4.2** There are no employment implications as a direct consequence of this report.

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.

STANDARDS COMMITTEE**FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2022/23**

Date of Meeting	Report Title
23 June, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispensation Applications (if any) • Schedule of observation visits by Independent Members of Standards Committee to Vale of Glamorgan Council / Committee and Town and Community Council meetings • Feedback report following observations at Vale of Glamorgan Council / Committee and Town and Community Council meetings, if any. • Correspondence with the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales • Feedback Report following Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards Framework Training to Vale of Glamorgan Councillors and Lay/ Co-opted Members by the Monitoring Officer • Feedback Report following Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards Framework Training to Town and Community Councils by the Monitoring Officer and One Voice Wales • Update regarding the All Wales Standards Forum • Outcome report following the consultation on Welsh Government's Standards of Conduct Statutory Guidance • Update on arrangements and mechanisms for compliance with Sections 62 and 63 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 in respect of monitoring the duties of Group Leaders in relation to Standards of Conduct • Update report of Monitoring Officer meeting with Clerks of Town and Community Councils'
22 September, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispensation Applications (if any) • Feedback report following observations at Vale of Glamorgan Council/ Committee and Town and Community Council meetings • Correspondence with the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales
24 November, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispensation Applications (if any) • Feedback report following observations at Vale of Glamorgan Council / Committee and Town and Community Council meetings • Correspondence with the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales •
26 January, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispensation Applications (if any) • Feedback report following observations at Vale of Glamorgan Council / Committee meetings and Town and Community Council Committee meetings • Correspondence with the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales • Update report of Monitoring Officer meetings with Clerks of Town and Community Councils

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standards Conference Wales 2023 • Update report of Monitoring Officer meeting with Clerks of Town and Community Councils
23 March 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispensation Applications (if any) • Feedback report following observations at Vale of Glamorgan Council / Committee and Town and Community Council meetings • Correspondence with the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales • Standards Committee Forward Work Programme

N.B.

- (1) Adjudication Panel for Wales Annual Report (to be presented when available)
- (2) Public Ombudsman for Wales Annual Report (to be presented when available)
- (3) Standards Committee Annual Report to be presented to Standards Committee for consideration at its first meeting in June 2023 date to be confirmed.