

Meeting of:	Standards Committee
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 17 March 2022
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	No Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Report Title:	Update following a meeting with representatives of Sully and Lavernock Community Council and the Monitoring Officer re Re Audit Wales Report Inadequacies in Governance and Financial Management
Purpose of Report:	To inform Standards Committee following a meeting held with the Chair, Vice-Chair and Clerk of Sully and Lavernock Community Council
Report Owner:	Debbie Marles, Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Responsible Officer:	Karen Bowen, Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	No consultation required as this is a matter for the Standards Committee
Policy Framework:	This is for consideration by the Standards Committee
Executive Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The report provides an update in respect of the Committees recommendation on 25th November 2022 that a meeting be held with the Chair, Vice Chair, Clerk of Sully and Lavernock Community Council and the Chair of the Standards Committee and the Monitoring Officer of the Vale of Glamorgan Council regarding the recommendations detailed in the Audit Wales Report Inadequacies in Governance and Financial Management. Committee agreement is also sought for the Principal Democratic Services Officer to liaise with an Independent Member of the Standards Committee on a suitable date for an observation visit of a meeting of the Community Council to be undertaken over the forthcoming months.

Recommendations

1. THAT the Standards Committee note the outcome of the meeting held with the Chair, Vice-Chair and Clerk of Sully and Lavernock Community Council and the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services.
2. THAT the Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer be requested to liaise with an Independent Member of the Standards Committee to make arrangements for an observation visit of a meeting of Sully and Lavernock Community Council to be undertaken on a convenient date over the forthcoming months.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. Having considered the report of the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services.
2. To undertake an observation visit and report back to the Standards Committee.

1. Background

- 1.1 At the Standards Committee meeting on 25th November, 2021 the Committee considered a report from Audit Wales re Inadequacies in Governance and Financial Management - Sully and Lavernock Community Council. The report detailed 9 recommendations that had been made to Sully and Lavernock Community Council with the aim to help the Council improve its financial management and governance arrangements.
- 1.2 Following consideration of the report the Standards Committee agreed that arrangements be made for the Chair of the Standards Committee and the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services to meet with the Chair, Vice-Chair and Clerk of Sully and Lavernock Community Council to discuss matters arising from the Audit Wales report relating to Code of Conduct matters.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 Following the Committee's recommendation on 25th November 2021 arrangements were made for a meeting to be held on 31st January, 2022 on a virtual basis, having regard to coronavirus restrictions. Due to technical difficulties the Chair of the Standards Committee was unable to join the meeting however, he had held discussions with the Monitoring Officer prior to the meeting regarding the agenda and issues to be considered.
- 2.2 The meeting did take place with the Chair, Vice Chair, Clerk of the Community Council, the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services of the Vale of Glamorgan Council and her personal assistant in attendance and the discussions included conduct of members of the Community Council, the Wales Audit report including the recommendations and the proposed follow up action by the Community Council and the training plan requirement in line with the

Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 together with an overview of the meetings with the Monitoring Officer and Clerks of TCC's. The Monitoring Officer /Head of Legal and Democratic Services will provide a more detailed update at the Standards Committee meeting on 17th March, 2022.

- 2.3 The meeting concluded with the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services suggesting that an observation visit by an Independent Member of the Standards Committee be undertaken over the coming months which was welcomed by the Chair, Vice-Chair and Clerk.
- 2.4 Committee is informed that the dates of Full Council meetings of the Community Council as displayed on the Community Council website for an Independent Member to consider attending over the forthcoming months are as follows ; - 17th May 2022 (Annual General meeting) 7th June 2022 and 4th October 2022. Further enquiries are however also being made with the Clerk / Chair of the Community Council regarding dates of any ordinary Council meetings likely to take place prior to 17th May 2022.

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. It is intended that the process adopted within this report will aim to promote that role.

4. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 4.1 There are no financial implications as a direct result of this report save for the allowance payable for Independent Members observing Town and Community Councils as part of the work programme of the Standards Committee.

Employment

- 4.2 No implications as a direct result of this report.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 4.3 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.

5. Background Papers

Audit Wales Report Inadequacies in Governance and Financial Management - Sully and Lavernock Community Council as reported to Standards Committee on 25th November 2022.