

Meeting of:	Standards Committee
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 26 January 2023
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	No Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Report Title:	Appointment of a Standards Committee Panel
Purpose of Report:	To consider the appointment of a Standards Committee Panel to consider undertaking a review.
Report Owner:	D. Marles, Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Responsible Officer:	K. Bowen, Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	This report does not involve any consultation with other parties
Policy Framework:	This is a matter for Standards Committee
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Standards Committee are asked to consider whether to undertake a review having regard to comments made at the Full Council meeting on 5th December, 2022. • Should the Standards Committee consider a review would be appropriate, the Standards Committee to consider establishing a Panel to undertake the Review with Panel membership consisting of three Independent Members. • Should the Standards Committee consider establishing a Panel to be established, the Panel be convened to consider the Terms of Reference for such a review and for the Terms of reference to be reported for consideration at the next meeting of the Standards Committee. 	

Recommendations

1. That the Standards Committee considers the contents of this report and whether to set up a Panel of Independent Members of the Standards Committee to consider conducting a review in respect of the matter referred to in paragraph 1.1 of this report.
2. That should the Committee agree to establishing a Panel as outlined in Recommendation (1) above, that the Panel consists of three Independent Members of the Standards Committee.
3. That following approval of the establishment of a Panel, the Panel be convened to consider the Terms of Reference for such a review and for the Terms of reference to be reported for consideration to the next meeting of the Standards Committee.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. For the Standards Committee's consideration
2. Having regard to Recommendation (1) above, if a Panel is approved to be set up that the membership be agreed.
3. The Terms of Reference of the Panel to be presented to the next meeting of the Standards Committee to consider.

1. Background

- 1.1 At the Full Council meeting on 5th December, 2022 a Member asked whether the Leader was prepared to undertake an Inquiry in relation to a former Vale of Glamorgan Councillor who had recently been found guilty of offences before the Newport Crown Court on 25th November 2022. (Min no 512 (xxxiii) refers.). The link to the Council minutes of 5th December 2022 being reproduced below.
- 1.2 A meeting regarding this matter was convened in December 2022 attended by the Member making the above request, his Group Leader, the Chair of Standards Committee and the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 Having regard to paragraph 1.1 above, Committee is advised that there is no legal basis for the Council to undertake an Inquiry of its own volition as it is a matter for Ministerial Authorisation.
- 2.2 The Standards Committee may if deemed appropriate consider appointing a Panel to undertake a review of the matters as outlined in paragraph 1.1 above and min no 512 (xxxiii). Link to Council minutes [https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/ Committee%20Reports/Cou
ncil/2022/22-12-05/Minutes.pdf](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Committee%20Reports/Council/2022/22-12-05/Minutes.pdf)

- 2.3** Should the Standards Committee consider appointing a Panel, it may also wish to consider that the Panel consists of three Independent Members of the Standards Committee.
- 2.4** Should the Standards Committee agree to the appointment of a Panel to undertake a review, the Panel be convened to determine the Terms of Reference of the Panel and the terms of reference be reported to the next meeting of the Standards Committee for consideration and / or approval.

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. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 4.1** None as a direct result of this report

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 5.1** None as a direct result of this report

Employment

- 5.2** None as a direct result of this report

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 5.3** 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.
- 5.4** 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.
- 5.5** It is a matter for the Standards Committee to determine the appropriateness of undertaking a review and the establishment of a Panel to do so.

6. Background Papers

Council minutes: 5th December, 2022.

https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/_Committee%20Reports/Council/2022/22-12-05/Minutes.pdf

