

Meeting of:	Standards Committee
Date of Meeting:	Friday, 08 March 2024
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	All Scrutiny Committees
Report Title:	Standards Committee Forward Work Programme
Purpose of Report:	To present to Members the Forward Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2024/25
Report Owner:	D. Marles – Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Responsible Officer:	K. Bowen – Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Committee 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 2024/25 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 2024/25 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 8th May, 2024 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 came 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 2023/24 be presented to the Standards Committee (following the Council's Annual Meeting) on 16th May, 2024 and reported to Full Council on 15th July, 2024.

- 2.4** Committee is requested to consider and approve the proposed work programme for 24/25.

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. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 4.1** There are no climate change or nature implications as a direct consequence of this report.

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

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

Employment

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

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 5.3** 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.

6. Background Papers

None.

STANDARDS COMMITTEE**FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2024/25**

Date of Meeting	Report Title
16 th May, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair of Standards Committee • Dispensation Applications (if any) • Feedback report following observations at Town and Community Council meetings • Draft Standards Committee Annual Report (together with feedback from Political Group Leaders on compliance with section 62 of the Local Government ad Elections (Wales) At 2021) • Update report of Monitoring Officer meeting with Clerks of Town and Community Councils • Update report following All Wales Monitoring Officer Group meeting • Correspondence with the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales
18 th July 2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispensation Applications (if any) • Feedback report following observations at Town and Community Council meetings • Update report following meeting of Standards Committee Forum June 2024 • Internal Audit reports, if any • Correspondence with the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales
26 th September, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispensation Applications (if any) • Feedback report following observations at Town and Community Council meetings • Report on Protocol - Standard of Conduct Expected by Members and Civility in Public Life (Update) • Correspondence with the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales
21 st November, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispensation Applications (if any) • Feedback report following observations at Town and Community Council Committee meetings • Correspondence with the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales • Standards Conference Wales 2024 • Update report of Monitoring Officer meeting with Clerks of Town and Community Councils

30 th January, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispensation Applications (if any) • Feedback report following observations at Town and Community Council meetings • Correspondence with the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales
27 th March, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispensation Applications (if any) • Feedback report following observations at 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 Services Ombudsman for Wales Annual Report (to be presented when available)