

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Standards Committee: 24th January 2019

Report of the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Observations by Independent Standards Committee Members at Vale of Glamorgan Council Meetings

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide the Committee with an update of the observations by Independent Standards Committee Members at Vale of Glamorgan Council meetings.

Recommendation

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

Reason for the Recommendation

Having regard to the observations undertaken.

Background

2. 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.In considering the Committee's work programme report at its meeting 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.
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.
4. Feedback reports would also be presented to the Standards Committee on a quarterly basis following the observations.

Relevant Issues and Options

5. A copy of the calendar of meetings for the 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
6. Members are requested to consider the timetables and advise the Democratic Services Officer of their intentions to attend any of the meetings.
7. Independent Members will present verbal reports to the Committee advising of the observations undertaken and/or suggesting any recommendations for improvement.

Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)

8. 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.

Sustainability and Climate Change Implications

9. There are no sustainability and climate change implications as a direct result of this report.

Legal Implications (to Include Human Rights Implications)

10. 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.

Crime and Disorder Implications

11. None as a direct result of this report.

Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)

12. None as a direct consequence of this report.

Corporate/Service Objectives

13. The report relates to the role of the Standards Committee as detailed in the Council's Constitution.

Policy Framework and Budget

14. This is a matter for decision by the Standards Committee.

Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)

15. The report does not require consultation to be undertaken.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

16. Not applicable.

Background Papers

None.

Contact Officer

Mrs. Karen Bowen, Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer, Tel: 01446 709856

Officers Consulted

None

Responsible Officer:

Ms. D. Marles, Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services