

Meeting of:	Standards Committee
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 15 May 2025
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	No Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Report Title:	Standards Committee Forward Work Programme
Purpose of Report:	To present to Members an updated Forward Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2025/26.
Report Owner:	V. Davidson – Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Responsible Officer:	A. Rudman – 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 updated Forward Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2025/26 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 2025/26 for the Committee's consideration and approval.

The Council's timetable of meetings for 2025/26 was agreed by Cabinet on 20th February, 2025 (following discussion with the Chair in relation to dates for Standards Committee meetings) and the relevant Standards Committee meeting dates are now included within Appendix 1 and uploaded to the Council's website for Members' information.

- 2.2** Standards Committee Members are reminded that the Council's Annual Meeting took place on 7th May, 2025 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 2024/25 be presented to the Standards Committee (following the Council's Annual Meeting) on 17th July, 2025 and reported to Full Council as appropriate.

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 2025/26

Date of Meeting	Report Title
17 th July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispensation Applications (if any). • Feedback report following observations at Vale of Glamorgan Council and 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 – All Wales Monitoring Officer Group meeting. • Items for National Standards Forum. • Update report of Monitoring Officer meeting with Clerks of Town and Community Councils. • Correspondence with the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.
25 th September 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispensation Applications (if any). • Feedback report following observations at Vale of Glamorgan Council and Town and Community Council meetings. • Report on Protocol - Standard of Conduct Expected by Members and Civility in Public Life (Update). • Update Report All Wales Monitoring Officer Group meeting. • Correspondence with the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.
20 th November 2025	<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.
29 th January 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispensation Applications (if any). • Feedback report following observations at Vale of Glamorgan Council and Town and Community Council meetings. • Update All Wales Monitoring Officer Group meeting. • Correspondence with the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales. • Update report of Monitoring Officer meeting with Clerks of Town and Community Councils.

26 th March 2026	<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.
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Other reports

- (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).
- (3) Update report – Standards Conference Wales – if held.
- (4) Standards Committee: Procedures Working Group Report (to be presented when available).