

Meeting of:	Standards Committee
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 17 July 2025
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	No Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Report Title:	Monitoring Officer Update Report
Purpose of Report:	To provide the Committee with an update regarding a number of matters within the Committee's remit.
Report Owner:	Victoria Davidson, Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services.
Responsible Officer:	Amy Rudman, Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer.
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	This report does not require consultation to be undertaken
Policy Framework:	This is a matter for the Standards Committee
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <p>The report provides an update in respect of matters addressed at the last Monitoring Officer Group Meeting, held in person at Llandrindod Wells, on the 6th June 2025.</p>	

Recommendations

1. That the contents of the report be noted.
2. T H A T the verbal update provided by the Monitoring Officer at the meeting be noted.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. To apprise Committee.
2. Having regard to the information provided.

1. Background

- 1.1 The All Wales Monitoring Officers' Group (MOG) of all Local Authorities in Wales including National Park Authorities, South Wales Police and Fire and Rescue Authorities meets on a regular basis to share good practice, receive and consider advice, as well as acting as a consultee on occasions by organisations including Welsh Government, the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales' office (PSOW) and the WLGA etc.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 The last Monitoring Officer Group Meeting was held in person at Llandrindod Wells on the 6th June 2025.
- 2.2 **Local Resolution Protocol Update:**
Counsel has advised that the current Local Resolution Protocol requires updating. This applies to all Local Authorities in Wales. A dedicated Working Group has produced a revised version, which is now with each Monitoring Officer to progress. Monitoring Officers will be expected to discuss the revised protocol with their respective Standards Committees, followed by submission to Full Council for approval.
- 2.3 **Use of Objective Connect Platform:**
The group discussed the PSOW-endorsed platform, Objective Connect, which is designed to enable external parties to upload documents securely and efficiently. The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) has offered assistance to Monitoring Officers in registering and setting up access to the system.
- 2.4 **Hearings Procedure Development:**
A new Working Group has been established to draft a Hearings Procedure. This will address procedural gaps, particularly where issues have arisen with councillors attempting to act as both representatives and witnesses during hearings. The introduction of a standardised procedure is intended to provide clarity and support to Monitoring Officers. The group will report back with proposals in due course.

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 with the sharing of good practice.

4. Climate Change and Nature Implications

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

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 5.1** Members are able to be remunerated for attendance under the allowance scheme agreed by the Independent Remuneration Panel and the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Constitution for approved duties. Independent Members are able to claim for a maximum of 15 days per annum as detailed within the Council's Constitution.

Employment

- 5.2** 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 15 days per annum as detailed within the Council's Constitution.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 5.3** 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.

Background Papers

Report – Standards Committee 27th March 2025 - [Monitoring Officer Update Report re Independent Review by PSOW, Review of Standards Committee Procedures and WLGA event held on 5th March 2025.](#)