

Meeting of:	<b>Standards Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>Thursday, 29 January 2026</b>
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	No Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Report Title:	All Wales Monitoring Officer Group 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 All Wales Monitoring Officer Group Meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2025.</p>	

## **Recommendations**

1. T H A T 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's office (PSOW) and the WLGA etc.

## **2. Key Issues for Consideration**

- 2.1 The last All Wales Monitoring Officer Group (MOG) Meeting was held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2025.
- 2.2 The MOG considered Welsh Government's response to the Local Government and Housing Committee's report on the role, governance and accountability of the community and town sector. Representatives were on the call from the WLGA and WG.
- 2.3 Julia Hughes. Flintshire's Chair of their Ethics and Standards Committee. had been appointed for a two-year term as the new Chair of the National Standards Committee Forum.
- 2.4 A representative from the Ombudsman's office updated the meeting and confirmed that the PSOW had continued to experience a challenging year with over 100 investigations, 55 of which remained open and under investigation. Aged cases were reducing. Outcomes of referrals to LA Standards Committees were discussed and APW cases hearing dates for referrals from February and March 2025, with behaviours of some members challenging.
- 2.5 Localised complaints involving Town and Community Councils (TCCs) seeing repeated tit-for-tat complaints where divisions existed within TCCs, the Ombudsman's office was encouraging TCCs to deal with complaints at a low level, with warning in decision notices that tit-for-tat complaints could be regarded as vexatious and a possible breach of the Members' Codes of Conduct.

- 2.6 No significant increase in complaints since introduction of notification to members being complained about on receipt of a complaint, with increase in complaints from 5 to 7%.

### **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 Independent Members are appointed for a period of not less than 4 no more than 6 years in accordance with Regulation 18(i) of the Standards Committees (Wales Regulations) 2001 (as amended) as amended by Regulation 28a of the Local Government (Standards Committees Investigations, Dispensations and Referral) (Wales) Amendment Regulations 2016 and may be re-appointed for one further consecutive term not exceeding 4 years.

#### **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.](#)

Report – Standards Committee 17<sup>th</sup> July 2025 – [Monitoring Officer Update Report.](#)