

Meeting of:	<b>Standards Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>Thursday, 26 March 2026</b>
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	No Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Report Title:	Standards Committee Forward Work Programme
Purpose of Report:	To present an updated Forward Work Programme to the Committee for the Municipal Year 2026/27.
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.
Executive Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Standards Committee agreed to establish a Forward Work Programme (FWP) for the Committee in March 2018 and attached to the report at Appendix 1 is the updated Forward Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2026/27 for the Committee's consideration.</li> </ul>

## **Recommendation**

1. T H A T the Forward Work Programme attached at Appendix 1 to the report be agreed, including any amendments or additions as requested by the Committee.

## **Reason for Recommendation**

1. To discuss and agree a Forward Work Programme for the municipal year ahead that will there on be managed by the Chair of the Committee in consultation with the Council's Monitoring Officer.

## **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.

- 1.2 In March 2018, the Standards Committee agreed to establish an Annual Forward Work Programme for the Municipal year ahead that is presented to the Committee on an annual basis.

- 1.3 Having regard to the provision at Section 63 (which came into force on 5<sup>th</sup> 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 2025/26 be presented to the Standards Committee (following the Council's Annual Meeting) on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026 and reported to Full Council as appropriate.

## 2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 The Council's timetable of meetings for 2026/27 was agreed by Cabinet on the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026 and the relevant Standards Committee meeting dates are set out within the appended Forward Work Programme (FWP).
- 2.2 Relevant Committee dates have also been shared with Committee Members in advance of this report, via email, for their information and future diary planning.
- 2.3 Standards Committee Members are reminded that the Council's Annual Meeting is scheduled to take place on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026, 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 on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026.
- 2.4 Following appointment, the Chair of the Standards Committee will be asked to consider future Committee dates and agenda content as part of their ongoing responsibility to manage agenda content, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer. After which, arrangements will be made to publish future Committee meeting dates on the Council's website for public information as well as establish agenda conference meetings.
- 2.5 Attached at **Appendix 1** to the report is a suggested FWP for the Municipal Year 2026/27 for the Committee's consideration and approval.
- 2.6 Members will note a change in formatting for the FWP document to support with distinguishing between 'rolling' and 'specific month' items expected by the Committee through-out the municipal year. Rolling items (page 1) will be produced for each Committee meeting unless deemed as unnecessary for the cycle in question by the Chair and/or Monitoring Officer. Specific month items (page 2) will be produced for certain meeting cycles based on the frequency that the report is presented to the Committee.
- 2.7 Other proposed changes for the Committee's consideration include:
  - The Monitoring Officer Update Report consolidating updates in relation to the All Wales Monitoring Officer Group, National Standards Committee Forum as well as any other matters deemed appropriate by the Monitoring Officer to include.
  - A request for a 11.00am meeting start time for the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2026 Committee meeting, to support with the Monitoring Officer's availability.
  - Combining the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales Recent Summary and Investigations Findings and Outcomes, and Adjudication Panel for Wales – Recent Tribunal Decisions Reports in to one single PSOW and APW Findings report.
  - Subject to the May 2027 Local Government Election pre-election period and relevant advice, a Committee meeting is provisionally scheduled for Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2027. If, nearer the time, the meeting is not likely to go ahead then officers will attempt to bring the April content earlier in January.

### **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 FWP process adopted within this report will aim to promote that role.

### **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**

[2025-05-25 Standards Committee Forward Work Programme Report.](#)

[2024-03-08 Standards Committee Forward Work Programme Report.](#)

[2023-03-23 Standards Committee Forward Work Programme Report.](#)

[2022-03-17 Standards Committee Forward Work Programme Report.](#)

# Standards Committee

## Forward Work Programme May 2026 – April 2027.

Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> May 2026, 10am.	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2026, 11am.	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> September 2026, 10am.	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2026, 10am.	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2027, 10am.	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2027, 10am.
<b>ROLLING ITEMS [EACH MEETING, AS REQUIRED]</b>					
Applications for Dispensation.					
Observations by Independent Members of Vale of Glamorgan Council and Town and Community Council Committee Meetings.	Observations by Independent Members of Vale of Glamorgan Council and Town and Community Council Committee Meetings.	Observations by Independent Members of Vale of Glamorgan Council and Town and Community Council Committee Meetings.	Observations by Independent Members of Vale of Glamorgan Council and Town and Community Council Committee Meetings.	Observations by Independent Members of Vale of Glamorgan Council and Town and Community Council Committee Meetings.	Observations by Independent Members of Vale of Glamorgan Council and Town and Community Council Committee Meetings.
Monitoring Officer Update Report.					
Correspondence with the PSOW (Part I).					
Monitoring Officer Meetings with Clerks of Town and Community Councils (March).	Monitoring Officer Meetings with Clerks of Town and Community Councils (June).		Monitoring Officer Meetings with Clerks of Town and Community Councils (September).	Monitoring Officer Meetings with Clerks of Town and Community Councils (December).	
Correspondence with the PSOW (Part II).					

# Standards Committee Forward Work Programme May 2026 – April 2027.

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<b>SPECIFIC MONTH ITEMS [SELECT MEETING, AS REQUIRED]</b>					
Appointment of Chair/ Vice-Chair [standing agenda item].	Group Leader Duty Compliance (Part I).	Adjudication Panel for Wales (APW) – Annual Report.		PSOW and APW Findings Report.	Standards Committee Forward Work Programme.
PSOW and APW Findings Report.	Draft Standards Committee Annual Report (taken alongside GL Duty report).	Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) Annual Report and Accounts.			
		Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Annual Report and Accounts.			
	Group Leader Duty Compliance (Part II).				

Items to be scheduled on an ad hoc basis:

- Civility in Public Life – Programme of Work.
- Standards Committee Quoracy – Governance Review, Clarification and Ratification of Decisions.
- Feedback Report - Standards Committee: Procedures Working Group.