

Meeting of:	Standards Committee
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 26 March 2026
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 All Wales Monitoring Officer Group Meeting held on the 6th March 2026.</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

- 1.0 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 6th March 2026.
- 2.2 The Ombudsman's representative shared a recent case concerning Merthyr Tydfil Council and a Member who was referred to their Standards Committee link to be provided. The Ombudsman also considered the assessment of the complexity of cases involving bullying of officers by Members and the need to gather witness evidence and dealing with challenges in this regard. Welsh Government presented their findings following the holding of the LRP workshops over the Autumn and Winter. MOs have been requested to consider and feedback comments with specific consideration to how could mandatory Member Code of Conduct apply within the sector in Wales.

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 17th July 2025 – [Monitoring Officer Update Report.](#)

Report – Standards Committee 29th January 2026 - [All Wales Monitoring Officer Group Update Report.](#)