

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Hybrid Meeting held on 30th July 2026.

The meeting papers are available [here](#).

The recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

To view the presentation and subsequent discussion for any Part I agenda item, please click the hyperlink contained in its title below.

Present: R. Hendicott (Chair and Independent Member); G. Watkins (Vice-Chair and Independent Member); R. Alexander, J. Evans and G. Olphert (Independent Members) Councillors R.M. Birch, J.E. Charles and C.P. Franks (Elected Members); and Councillor P. Summers (Town and Community Council Representative).

206 ANNOUNCEMENT –

Prior to the commencement of the business of the Committee, the Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer read the following statement: “May I remind everyone present that the meeting will be live streamed as well as recorded via the internet and this recording archived for future viewing”.

207 [DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST](#) –

No declarations of interest were received.

208 [MINUTES](#) –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 4th June 2026 be approved as a correct record.

209 [GROUP LEADER DUTY COMPLIANCE](#) (MO/HLDS) –

The report was provided to enable the Standards Committee to fulfil its statutory duty to establish whether it was content that Political Group Leaders had complied with the duties placed upon them by the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

It provided the Committee with an opportunity to receive verbal representations from Political Group Leaders regarding the actions they had taken to promote and maintain high standards of conduct within their respective groups and to consider the arrangements in place to support compliance with the Members' Code of Conduct and the co-operation requirements between Political Group Leaders and the Standards Committee.

The Committee was also asked to review the continued suitability of the Group Leader Code of Conduct Compliance Pro-forma and the Vale of Glamorgan Political Group Leader Threshold Criteria.

The Committee received verbal representations from the four political Group Leaders regarding compliance with their duties under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. Members discussed the ongoing consultation on proposed amendments to Part 19 of the Constitution, including the Social Media Protocol, and noted that a report would be presented to Full Council following completion of consultation with Group Leaders. Members also discussed evidencing compliance activities, the handling of low-level complaints and concerns, and the monitoring of Member training completion.

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the verbal representations made by Group Leaders present at the meeting be noted.
- (2) T H A T the Group Leader Code of Conduct Compliance Pro-forma (Appendix A) and Threshold Criteria (Appendix B) remain fit for purpose.
- (3) T H A T the completed Group Leader Code of Conduct Compliance Pro-formas be considered under the Part II report later on the agenda.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To meet the Standards Committee duty to establish whether it was content that Political Group Leaders had complied with the duties of the 2021 Act.
- (2) To ensure the Committee continued to have effective mechanisms for assessing compliance with statutory duties.
- (3) To assist the Committee in determining whether Political Group Leaders had complied with their statutory responsibilities.

210 [APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION](#) (MO/HLDS) –

The purpose of the report was to consider applications for dispensation received from Llantwit Major Town Councillors P.D. Ellis, G. Morgan and P. Dickson as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

The Monitoring Officer apprised the Committee on the applications presented and confirmed their agreement of the paragraphs under which dispensation may be granted, as applied for, in line with the Standards Committee (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001.

Following careful consideration of the applications and having regard to the Monitoring Officer's advice above, it was

RESOLVED – T H A T the dispensations as set out in the schedule below be granted up to the date of the next Local Government Elections:

Member Requesting Dispensation	Paragraph(s) of the Standards Committee (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 Under Which Dispensation is Granted and as applied for	Decision
Llantwit Major Town Councillor P.D. Ellis	(d) and (f)	To Speak, Vote and remain in meetings of Llantwit Major Town Council when matters relating to the Local History Society are discussed.
Llantwit Major Town Councillor G. Morgan	(d) and (f)	To Speak, Vote and remain in meetings of Llantwit Major Town Council when matters relating to the Local History Society are discussed.
Llantwit Major Town Councillor P. Dickson	(d) and (f)	To Speak, Vote and remain in meetings of Llantwit Major Town Council when matters relating to the Local History Society are discussed.

Reason for decision

Having regard to the applications submitted and discussions held at the meeting.

211 [OBSERVATIONS BY INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL AND TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS](#) (MO/HLDS) –

The report provided the Standards Committee with an overview of observation visits undertaken by Independent Members of the Committee at Vale of Glamorgan Council and Town and Community Council meetings and updated Members on findings arising from observations conducted since the previous meeting of the Committee.

The report also provided an update on progress against the agreed two-year observation programme for 2025/26 and 2026/27 at Appendix A.

Mr. Watkins reported positively on his observation of Welsh St. Donats Community Council's in-person meeting on 21st July, 2026, noting that it was held in a pleasant community hall setting with ample accommodation for members of the public. He advised that, despite only four Members being present, the meeting was conducted

smoothly and efficiently, lasted approximately 30 minutes, and involved no contentious business. Mr. Watkins had no issues or concerns to report and expressed the hope that the same positive standards of conduct and administration would continue following the Council's proposed amalgamation with another Council.

The Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer would continue to make enquiries with Town and Community Councils yet to be observed in relation to future meeting dates, in order that these were shared with relevant Independent Members accordingly.

RESOLVED – T H A T the report and feedback received in respect of the observation visit undertaken by an Independent Member of the Standards Committee be noted.

Reason for decision

Having regard to the observation undertaken and the role of the Standards Committee.

212 STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT (MO/HLDS) –

The draft Standards Committee Annual Report for 2025/26 was attached to the report at Appendix A for Committee's consideration and approval.

The report fulfilled the requirements of Section 63 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, which required Standards Committees to produce an Annual Report following the end of each financial year.

Following approval by the Standards Committee, the report would be submitted to Full Council for consideration in accordance with legislative requirements.

With no suggested amendments raised, the Committee

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the draft Annual Report attached at Appendix A to the report be approved and presented to Full Council.
- (2) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Chair of the Standards Committee to incorporate any amendments arising from the meeting and finalise the report prior to submission to Full Council.
- (3) T H A T a copy of the finalised report, following consideration by Full Council, be forwarded to each Vale of Glamorgan Town and Community Council Clerk and the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To comply with the requirements of Section 63 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.
- (2) To enable any comments made at the Standards Committee meeting to be incorporated into the final version of the Annual Report.
- (3) For information and dissemination of good governance practice.

213 [MONITORING OFFICER MEETINGS WITH CLERKS OF TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS](#) (MO/HLDS) –

The report provided the Committee with an update of the meeting held on 4th June 2026 undertaken between the Monitoring Officer (MO) and Clerks of Town and Community Councils (TCCs).

RESOLVED – T H A T the content of the report, including the matters discussed at the Monitoring Officer meeting with Town and Community Council Clerks held on 4th June 2026, be noted.

Reason for decision

To ensure the Committee was informed of recent engagement with Town and Community Councils, including any emerging issues, themes, and guidance provided in relation to the Code of Conduct, in support of its oversight role.

214 [MONITORING OFFICER UPDATE REPORT](#) (MO/HLDS) –

The report provided an update in respect of matters addressed at the last All Wales Monitoring Officer Group Meeting held on the 5th March 2026.

RESOLVED –

- (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 decisions

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

215 CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES (MO/HLDS) –

The Monitoring Officer advised that the report before the Committee was a standard item on the Committee's Forward Work Programme and set out the communications that they had received from the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales.

A Part II version of the report had also been provided to the Committee and therefore, the Monitoring Officer would provide an update to the Standards Committee at the meeting under Part II of the agenda in relation to recent confidential correspondence and matters arising.

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the Part I content of the report in relation to correspondence received from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales be noted.

(2) T H A T the Part II version of the report be considered in private session.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To ensure the Committee was informed of relevant correspondence and could fulfil its role in overseeing standards of conduct and the ethical framework within the Council.

(2) To ensure that confidential or sensitive information was handled appropriately in accordance with statutory requirements and the Council's procedures.

216 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC –

RESOLVED – T H A T under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 4 of Schedule 12A (as amended) of the Act, the relevant paragraphs of the Schedule being referred to in brackets after the minute heading.

217 GROUP LEADER DUTY COMPLIANCE (MO/HLDS) (EXEMPT INFORMATION – PARAGRAPHS 12, 13 AND 14) –

The report was provided to enable the Standards Committee to fulfil its statutory duty to establish whether it was content that Political Group Leaders had complied with the duties placed upon them by the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

It provided the Committee with an opportunity to receive verbal representations from Political Group Leaders regarding the actions they had taken to promote and maintain high standards of conduct within their respective groups and to consider the arrangements in place to support compliance with the Members' Code of Conduct

and the co-operation requirements between Political Group Leaders and the Standards Committee.

Following discussion with Group Leaders, the Committee deliberated in private and subsequently

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the completed Group Leader Code of Conduct Compliance Pro-formas, attached at Appendices C – F of the report, be noted.
- (2) T H A T the Standards Committee Annual Report be amended to reflect the Committee's satisfaction, following assessment, that the statutory duties placed on Group Leaders had been met.
- (3) T H A T a training session proposal be shared with all Standards Committee Members by the Monitoring Officer in relation to Part II requirements for the Committee.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To meet the duties placed upon Political Group Leaders in line with Section 52 of the Local Government 2000 Act as amended by section 62 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.
- (2) Having regard to discussions held at the Standards Committee meeting with political Group Leaders and the completion of the Group Leader Code of Conduct Compliance Pro-Formas and the Vale of Glamorgan Political Group Leader Threshold Criteria.
- (3) To ensure that all Standards Committee Members were fully aware of the Committee's responsibilities and obligations in relation to Part II business, enabling them to discharge their duties effectively, consistently and in accordance with statutory and constitutional requirements.

218 CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES (MO/HLDS) (EXEMPT INFORMATION – PARAGRAPHS 12, 13 AND 14) –

As outlined at Part I of the agenda, it had been agreed by the Standards Committee that a standing item appear on the Committee's agenda in order that the Monitoring Officer would be able to apprise Standards Committee Members of correspondence received from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (the Ombudsman) on any matters arising, the items being confidential in nature in line with the Ombudsman's procedure.

The Monitoring Officer therefore provided the Committee with a verbal update in respect of any recent correspondence with the Ombudsman.

RESOLVED – T H A T the Part II content of the report and the correspondence received from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales be noted.

Reason for decision

To ensure the Committee was informed of relevant correspondence and could fulfil its role in overseeing standards of conduct and the ethical framework within the Council.