



Report of the Monitoring Officer

Special Standards Committee – 17 February 2023

Group Leader Duty

Purpose:	To meet with political Group Leaders and discuss how they maintain high standards of behaviour within their group.
Policy Framework:	Standards Committee Terms of Reference – Council Constitution.
Consultation:	Legal, Access to Services and Finance.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that the Standards Committee: 1) Consider the templates received by political Group Leaders and discuss with them how they consider that they have complied with their new duty to maintain high standards of behaviour within their Group.
Report Author:	Tracey Meredith
Finance Officer:	Ben Smith
Legal Officer:	Tracey Meredith
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar

1. Background

1.1 At the Standards Committee meeting on 24 June 2022 the Committee resolved that:

- The Committee meets formally with the Group Leaders on an annual basis
- The Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee meet with the Group Leaders on an informal basis to monitor their compliance with the duty
- That a template report is drafted to be sent to Group Leaders to complete in terms of members of their group who have attended training (mandatory and recommended) and any steps they have taken during the year to promote high standards within their group.

1.2 A template was circulated to Group Leaders and responses are attached at Appendix A.

2. Duty of Group Leaders

- 2.1 The new duty of group leaders is to take reasonable steps to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by the members of the group. This could include leading by example, using their influence to create a positive culture, being proactive in promoting high standards of behaviour within group and addressing issues as soon as they arise. Also working with the Monitoring Officer for early advice and guidance.
- 2.2 Attached at Appendix B is the draft Guidance on Group Leader duties from Welsh Government. A final version of the Guidance is awaited following the close of consultation on the Guidance in June of 2022.

3. Integrated Impact Assessment

- 3.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
 - Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
 - Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
 - Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- 3.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.
- 3.3 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.
- 3.4 An IIA Screening Form has been completed with the agreed outcome that a full IIA report is not required as there are no integrated impact implications.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications associated with the report.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

Background Papers:

None

Appendices:

Appendix A – Group Leader Templates.

Appendix B – Draft Guidance.