



## GROUP LEADERS REPORT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS (WALES) ACT 2021 DUTIES

**Group Leader: Christopher Holley**

**Political Group: Liberal Democrat/Independents**

**Number of Members: 18**

**Date completed: 08/02/2023**

### 1. Training

- Number of new members in group trained on Code of Conduct - **6**
- Number of existing members in group trained on Code of Conduct - **12**
- Number of members in group who have undertaken induction training - **6**
- Any other training which members have undertaken:

The full induction training

#### **Answer/response:**

Please see my separate letter

2. What actions have you undertaken within your group to promote compliance with the duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members of your group. Examples could include:

- Demonstrating personal commitment to and attending relevant development and training
- Encouraging group members to attend relevant training around equalities, safeguarding and standards
- Ensuring nominees to Committees have received the recommended training
- Promoting civility and respect within group communications and meetings
- Promoting informal resolution procedures in the Council and working with the Monitoring Officer/ Standards Committee to achieve local resolution

- Promoting a culture within the group which supports high standards of conduct and integrity
- Attending meetings of the Standards Committee if requested to discuss Code of Conduct issues
- Working together with other group leaders to collectively support high standards of conduct within the Council

**Answer/Response:**

We have regular group meetings by which all the issues above are highlighted. I have one-to-one meetings with all the councillors new and old by that I mean newly elected home or councillors. I've been elected for some time. At those one-to-one's I discuss any issues they have and also remind them of their roles and responsibilities.

3. Are there any specific issues which you wish to bring to the Chair's attention in relation to your new duty. (This would include any sensitive issues which have arisen, any use of the member/officer code of conduct, PSOW investigations).

**Answer/Response:**

In the covering letter I sent there is an issue about training and whether or not the standards committee would like to have a look at how that training is conducted. I also believe that there should be a method by which in an informal way the standards committee could meet the new members.

4. Are there any matters upon which the Standards committee could assist ie training, higher profile etc

**Answer/response:**

As I said above, I think an informal meeting with the standards committee with members all members and especially new members could help understand the role of standards and understand the rules of what elected members are. I think there is one specific issue that needs to be brought up as if there are going to be compulsory redundancies this year and in consequential years with the budgets I do believe that there should be a set procedure where members are involved in various committees and scrutiny have definitive roll when it comes to redundancies. This is an extremely difficult and taxing issue which I think the standards committee along with members elected members, senior elected members should have a discussion.