



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

**Group Leader: Cllr. Lyndon Jones MBE**

**Political Group: Welsh Conservative Group**

**Number of Members: 7**

**Date completed: 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2023**

### 1. Training

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

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

- All new members (2) of the group have been trained on the code of conduct.
- All existing members (5) of the group have been trained on the code of conduct.
- All members of the group have taken most of the induction training. Omissions have been as follows, but will be encouraging members to complete this training as soon as possible.
  1. Lyndon Jones: e-voting
  2. Paxton Hood Williams: Local Government Finance & e-voting
  3. Richard Lewis: Understanding Local Area Co-ordination & e-voting
  4. Will Thomas: Understanding Local Area Co-ordination & e-voting
  5. Francesca O'Brien: e-voting
  6. Angela O'Conner: Understanding Local Area Co-ordination

As Group Leader, I encourage members to take training in all aspects of our work, including training provided by the Welsh Conservative Party.

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:**

- As Group Leader, I encourage attending training courses, because I take the view that however experienced, you can always learn.
- All members of the Group have attended courses around equalities, safeguarding and standards.
- The Council offers training for the relevant committees, which members are encouraged to take up. As Chair of Education Scrutiny in Swansea, I arranged for the first meeting to be a training briefing for members, particularly new members of the panel.
- In the event of any Group Leader contacting me about an issue surrounding one of my Councillors, this is something I would treat very seriously and deal with urgently.
- Respect should be the watchword between Councillors across the Council and also I think equally between Councillors and Officers and Staff. You should treat others in a respectful way, you would like to be treated yourself.
- I expect the highest standards in my group with regard to respect, conduct and integrity, especially as a former Chair of the Welsh Conservative Party and Member of the UK Board of the Conservative Party, I now sit on the Disciplinary Committee for the UK Conservative Party.
- I also insist on the same standards when it comes to Social Media.
- I am fortunate that all members of my group have the highest integrity and sign up to my “respect” agenda.

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:**

I believe that you should treat and deal with Officers and Staff as you would like to be dealt with yourself. I am therefore pleased that all Councillors in my group agree. Courtesy and Respect are key to this.

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

**Answer/response:**

In this time, it is vital that everyone is mindful of the "Courtesy and Respect" agenda that I adopt when dealing with Social Media and I think training across Council would be useful, so that the highest standards happen.