

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are invited to attend a Special Meeting of the

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

At: Chamber Meeting Room, Civic Centre, Swansea

On: Friday, 22 January 2016

Time: 9.35 am

Chair: Meirion Howells

Membership:

Councillors: J A Hale, C E Lloyd and L G Thomas

Co-opted Members: J Burgess, P Crayford, G Evans, J Gomes and M Williams

AGENDA

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- 1 Apologies for Absence
- 2 Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests
<http://www.swansea.gov.uk/DisclosuresofInterests>
- 3 Annual Meeting with Political Group Leaders, Chairs of Committees and Chief Executive 1 - 2
 - 09.40 am Councillor Penny Matthews, Chair of General Licensing Committee
 - 10.10 am Councillor Paul Meara, Chair of Democratic Services Committee

Next Meeting: Friday, 4 March 2016 at 9.35 am



Patrick Arran
Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Thursday, 14 January 2016

Contact: Democratic Services – 01792 636923

Report of the Head of Democratic Services

Special Standards Committee – 22 January 2016

Annual Meeting with Political Group Leaders, Chairs of Committees and Chief Executive

Purpose:	To seek the views of the Political Group Leaders, Chairs of Committees and the Chief Executive in relation to a number of set questions relating to the Standards Committee.	
Policy Framework:	None.	
Reason for Decision:	To consider the responses to the questions and to implement any necessary changes that stem from them.	
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.	
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that:	
1)	The views of the Political Group Leaders, Chairs of Committees and the Chief Executive be noted and used to improve the effectiveness of the Standards Committee.	
Report Author:	Huw Evans	
Finance Officer:	Carl Billingsley	
Legal Officer:	Patrick Arran	
Access to Services Officer:	Phil Couch	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Standards Committee resolved to hold annual meetings with the Political Group Leaders, Chairs of Committees and the Chief Executive in order to seek their opinions on the work of the Standards Committee.
- 1.2 The Standards Committee stated that they wished to question the Chairs of the following Committees: Audit Committee, Democratic Services Committee, General Licensing Committee, Planning Committee and Scrutiny Programme Committee.
- 1.3 The Standards Committee agreed that views be sought in respect of the questions set out in **Appendix A**.
- 1.4 Three of the four Political Group Leaders were questioned at the meeting on 13 November 2015 and the others commenced on 4 December 2015.

Background Papers: None.

Appendices: Appendix A - Standards Committee Questions

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE QUESTIONS FOR POLITICAL GROUP LEADERS,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND CHAIRS OF AUDIT COMMITTEE, DEMOCRATIC
SERVICES COMMITTEE, GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE, PLANNING
COMMITTEE AND SCRUTINY PROGRAMME COMMITTEE**

- 1) What is the role of the Standards Committee?
- 2) What is the future role of the Standards Committee?
- 3) How can Political Group Leaders / Committee Chairs promote standards and good governance through Leadership?
- 4) How can the Standards Committee become more active in promoting ethical conduct among Councillors / Co-opted Members?
- 5) What is your understanding of the Nolan Principles and how they impact on public life?
- 6) Are you aware of the Calver decision and do you think that it's had an influence on Councillors / Co-opted Members?
- 7) What are your views on the Authority's Code of Conduct training? How could it be improved so as to raise the ethical standards of Councillors / Co-opted Members?
- 8) Training for Councillors / Co-opted Members is vitally important. How can the Standards Committee tackle those that don't see training as important?
- 9) How could Standards Committee encourage the use of the Authority's Internal Dispute Resolution Process (Cllr v Cllr)?
- 10) During the past year, members of the Standards Committee have attended a number of meetings. Has this had an impact on behaviour and standards? What Committees do you feel the Standards Committee members should attend as observers?