



Report of the Head of Democratic Services

Standards Committee – 24 July 2024

Standards Committee Annual Report 2023-2024

Purpose:	The Standards Committee must produce a Statutory annual report at the end of the financial year. The report describes how the Committee's functions have been discharged during the previous year.
Policy Framework:	None.
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) The Standards Committee Annual Report 2023-2024 be approved and forwarded to Council for information.
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 There is a legal requirement (pursuant to the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 for the Councils Standards Committees to make an annual report to Swansea Council on the standards regime within its Council. The report must:
- (a) describe how the Standards Committee has discharged its functions during the preceding financial
 - (b) include a summary of reports and recommendations made or referred to the Standards Committee by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales relating to the investigation of alleged breaches of the member code of conduct, and any subsequent action taken by the committee
 - (c) include a summary of notices given to the Standards Committee by the Adjudication Panel for Wales, relating to the Panel's decisions on possible breaches of the member code of conduct; and
 - (d) include the Standards Committee's assessment of how political group leaders have complied with their new duty to promote high standards of conduct.

- 1.2 The requirement to make an annual report is intended to ensure there is a regular and consistent approach to the reporting and consideration of standards of conduct by elected members. This is intended to promote local ownership and collective responsibility by members for ensuring high standards of conduct within their authority. Swansea Council must consider the report and any recommendations made by its standards committee within three months of its receipt.
- 1.3 Attached as **Appendix A** is the Draft Standards Committee Annual Report 2023-2024. If the Standards Committee agrees the Annual Report it will be forwarded to Council for information on 3 October 2024.

2. Integrated Assessment Implications

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2005 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'.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 There are no integrated assessment implications associated with this report.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 There are no legal implications other than those set out in the body of the report.

Background Papers: None.

Appendices:

Appendix A Standards Committee Annual Report 2023-2024