



Report of the Head of Democratic Services

Standards Committee - 19 January 2024

Review of Standards Committee Hearing Procedure

Purpose:	To Review the Standards Committee Hearing Procedure.
Policy Framework:	None.
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) The views of the Standards Committee are sought.
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Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar

1. Introduction

1.1 The Standards Committee Hearing Procedure assists the Standards Committee & Monitoring Officer by outlining the procedure to be followed in dealing with a referral from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW).

2. Standards Committee Hearing Procedure

2.1 The Standards Committee approved the “Standards Committee Hearing Procedure” at its meeting on 18 February 2021. The Hearing Procedure is attached at **Appendix 1**.

2.2 The Standards Committee Hearing Procedure has been used several times since its adoption. It is proposed that it be reviewed to ensure that any learning during its use over that period is reflected within the Hearing Procedure. This will ensure that the Procedure remains fit for purpose.

2.3 The Committee is asked to consider issues such as:

- Specific rules / deadlines for disclosure of documents for the Committee bundle.

- Adding a paragraph to the Hearing Procedure, requiring all participants to affirm that their statement is the truth to the best of their knowledge.
- Specific timescales and outcomes from the hearing. Oral decision within 48 hours and written decision within a set period.

3. Integrated Assessment Implications

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 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'.

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 There are no integrated assessment implications associated with this report.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

5. Legal Implications

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

Background Papers: None.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Standards Committee Hearing Procedure