



## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF**

### **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

#### **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**5 SEPTEMBER 2023**

### **NATIONAL STANDARDS FORUM - FEEDBACK FROM MEETING HELD ON 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2023**

#### **REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**

##### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To provide Members with feedback from the meeting of the National Standards Forum held on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

##### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 To note the feedback from the meeting of the National Standards Forum held on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023.
- 2.2 To consider whether there are any items the Committees wishes to put forward as suggestions for consideration by the National Standards Forum at its future meetings.

##### **3. BACKGROUND AND INAUGURAL NATIONAL FORUM MEETING**

- 3.1 As reported to the Committee [at its meeting](#) in November 2022 a National Forum for Standards Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs has been established. The terms of reference for the Forum are attached at Appendix 1. By sharing best practice it is anticipated the Forum will help to raise standards across all authorities in Wales.
- 3.2 The second meeting of the Forum took place on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023. Feedback and actions arising from the meeting can be found attached at Appendix 2.
- 3.3 The meeting considered the following items:
  - Training for Standards Committee Chairs – to be coordinated through the WLGA;

- A presentation from the Chair of the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) who provided an overview of the standards regime in England and the implementation of recommendations from the Local Government Ethical Standards Report (2019);
- A presentation from the Ombudsman in respect of her Annual Report 2022/2023 (to be reported to November's Standards Committee meeting);
- Work in respect of the duty on political group leaders to take reasonable steps to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members of the group and, the duty on the Standards Committee to comment on group leaders' compliance with that duty as part of its annual report.
- Supporting Town and Community Councils;
- Resourcing of Standards Committees;
- Richard Penn Review update;
- Minimum value for gifts and hospitality; and
- Consideration of agenda items for future meetings

The following items would be considered at the next meeting.

- Local resolution protocols.
- Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) and Joint Standards Committees

3.4 The next meeting of the forum will in January 2024. The following items will be considered - Local resolution protocols & Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) and Joint Standards Committees.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The support for the Forum will be provided by the WLGA and voluntarily by monitoring officers within the constituent local authorities.

#### **5. CONSULTATION IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None required.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

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**5 SEPTEMBER 2023**

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**[NATIONAL FORUM FOR STANDARDS COMMITTEE CHAIRS – DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE – 18 NOVEMBER 2022](#)**

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