



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

22 APRIL 2024

NATIONAL STANDARDS FORUM - FEEDBACK FROM MEETING HELD ON 29TH JANUARY 2024

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide Members with feedback from the meeting of the National Standards Forum held on 29th January 2024.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To note the feedback from the meeting of the National Standards Forum held on 29th January 2024, attached at Appendix 2.
- 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 third meeting of the Forum took place on 29th January June 2023. The Agenda and feedback and actions arising from the meeting can be found attached at Appendix 2A and 2B respectively.
- 3.3 The meeting considered the following items:

- Presentation by Michelle Morris - Public Services Ombudsman for Wales – Code of Conduct Update.
- Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) and Joint Standards Committees. Presentation by Iwan Gwilym Evans, Gwynedd.
- Resourcing of Standards Committees.
- Local resolution protocols, how do they operate in your area and are they effective.
- Items raised by the Monitoring Officers Group:

Whether, in light of the duty to report on the performance of the Group Leader's duty, authorities allow group leaders to sit on their Standards Committee and, if so, how they manage any perceived conflict of interest between a group leader assessing their own performance and the performance of their political opponents;

Progress on adopting the agreed common threshold of £25 for the registration of gifts and hospitality;

Do authorities have any guidance on the use of social media over and above that published by the WLGA; and

Whether authorities encourage their town & community councils to sign the civility and respect pledge - <https://www.slcc.co.uk/news-publications/civility-respect-pledge/> .If they do not whether they would consider doing so.

3.4 The next meeting of the forum will in June 2024.

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 The Committee is invited to make suggestions as to future items the forum may wish to consider as part of its future work programme.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

22 APRIL 2024

REPORT OF MONITORING OFFICER

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

Contact: Mr. Andy Wilkins (Director of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer)