



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES – MR CRAIG GRIFFITHS

14th October 2024

Matter for Information

Wards Affected: All Wards

Standards Committees Forum - Wales

Purpose of the Report:

To provide the Committee with information about the fourth meeting of the national Standards Committees Forum – Wales, and an opportunity to consider the issues raised.

Background:

One of the recommendations made following the independent review of the ethical standards framework for Wales ('the Independent Review Report', published on 14th October 2021) was that there should be an All-Wales Forum for Independent Chairs of Standards Committees, to encourage consistency of approach and the adoption of best practice across Wales.

Standards Committee received a report on the proposed establishment of a National Standards Committee Forum, comprised of the Chairs of each Standards Committee in Wales, and its terms of reference previously. The purpose of the Forum is to share best practice and provide a forum for problem solving across the twenty two principal councils, three fire and rescue authorities and three national park authorities, in relation to the work of Standards Committees.

The Standards Committee Chair, attended the second meeting of the Forum, which was held remotely in June 2024. The agenda of that meeting and minutes are enclosed at Appendix A.

At the meeting, the Chairs confirmed their wish to share as much information as possible with their standards committees and the public and it was therefore agreed that the notes would be circulated to standards committees, provided that no individual complainant or councillor complained of could be identified.

The Forum is to continue to meet biannually.

Financial Impacts:

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Any relevant payments and allowances associated with the activities of the Standards Committees Forum – Wales would be payable in accordance with the rates set by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales and met from the allocated budget

Integrated Impact Assessment:

An Integrated Impact Assessment is not required for this report.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

No implications

Workforce Impacts:

No implications

Legal Impacts:

The Forum has no formal decision making powers, which means that any formal decisions required would need the approval of each individual Standards Committee.

In relation to Town and Community Councils and their Members, the Standards and Committee has the same statutory functions as it has in relation to Neath Port Talbot Council and its Members (pursuant to section 56(1) of the Local Government Act 2000).

There are no other direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

Consultation:

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item

Recommendations:

The Standards Committee is recommended to note the information set out in the report and its appendices and make any appropriate comments

Appendices:

Appendix A – Standards Committees Forum – Wales, Minutes

List of Background Papers:

None

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