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Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

Bridgend County Borough Council



Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont, CF31 4WB / Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

*Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg.
Rhowch wybod i ni os mai Cymraeg yw eich
dewis iaith.*

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let us know if your language choice is Welsh.*



Annwyl Cyngorydd,

PWYLLGOR SAFONNAU

Bydd hyn yn a Cynhelir Cyfarfod o bell Trwy y Pwyllgor Safonau Timau Microsoft. ar **Dydd Iau, 16 Tachwedd 2023** am **10:00**.

AGENDA

1. Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb
Derbyn ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb gan Aelodau.
2. Datganiadau o fuddiant
Derbyn datganiadau o ddiddordeb personol a rhagfarnol (os o gwbl) gan Aelodau / Swyddogion yn unol â darpariaethau'r Cod Ymddygiad Aelodau a fabwysiadwyd gan y Cyngor o 1 Medi 2008.
3. Cymeradwyaeth Cofnodion 3 - 10
I dderbyn am gymeradwyaeth y Cofnodion cyfarfod y 07/07/2023
4. Penodi Cadeirydd ac Is-Gadeirydd 11 - 14
5. Llythyr Blynyddol Ombwdsmon Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cymru 2022/23 15 - 28
6. Arsylwi Cyfarfodydd Cyngorau Tref A Chymuned A Chyfarfodydd Cyngor 29 - 32
7. Materion Brys
I ystyried unrhyw eitemau o fusnes y, oherwydd amgylchiadau arbennig y cadeirydd o'r farn y dylid eu hystyried yn y cyfarfod fel mater o frys yn unol â Rhan 4 (pharagraff 4) o'r Rheolau Trefn y Cyngor yn y Cyfansoddiad.

Nodyn: Bydd y cyfarfod hwn yn cael ei gynnal o bell Trwy Timau Microsoft. Bydd y cyfarfod cael ei recordio i'w drosglwyddo drwy wefan y Cyngor. Os oes gennych unrhyw gwestiwn am hyn, cysylltwch â cabinet_committee@bridgend.gov.uk neu ffoniwch 01656 643148 / 643694 / 643513 / .643696

Yn ddiffuant

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Cyfnwyd testun: Rhowch 18001 o flaen unrhyw un o'n rhifau ffon ar gyfer y gwasanaeth trosglwyddo testun

Text relay: Put 18001 before any of our phone numbers for the text relay service

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg. Rhowch wybod i ni os yw eich dewis iaith yw'r Gymraeg

We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Please let us know if your language choice is Welsh

K Watson

Prif Swyddog, Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Rheoleiddio, AD a Pholisi Corfforaethol

Cynghorwyr:

MJ Williams

G Thomas

Cynghorwyr

G Walter

Aelodau Lleyg:

P Clarke

R Lynch

S Maughan

S Cullen

P Baker

Presennol

Y Mr C Jones OBE – Cadeirydd

MJ Williams
G Walter

G Thomas

Mr P Clarke

Mrs J Kiely

Swyddogion:

Mark Galvin
Laura Griffiths

Uwch Swyddog Gwasanaethau Democrataidd - Pwyllgorau
Rheolwr Grŵp Cyfreithiol a Gwasanaethau Democrataidd

120. DATGANIADAU O FUDDIANNAU

Datganodd y Cynghorydd M Williams fuddiant personol yn Eitem 4, Safonau Ymddygiad, gan ei fod yn briod ag un o'r Arweinwyr Grwpiau a oedd yn bresennol yn y cyfarfod.

121. CYMERADWYO'R COFNODION

Bod cofnodion y Pwyllgor Safonau yn ddyddiedig 22/06/2023 wedi'u cymeradwyo fel cofnod gwir a chywir.

122. SAFONAU YMDDYGIAD

Nodwyd bod Arweinwyr y tri grŵp gwleidyddol wedi'u gwahodd i fynychu'r cyfarfod ar gyfer yr eitem hon.

Fe wnaeth y Prif Swyddog Cyfreithiol a Rheoleiddiol, Adnoddau Dynol a Pholisi Corfforaethol gyflwyno'r adroddiad, a'i ddiben oedd cyflwyno i'r pwyllgor, adroddiad y tri arweinydd grŵp gwleidyddol yn amlinellu eu cydymffurfedd â'r dyletswyddau mewn perthynas â chynnal safonau ymddygiad.

Cyfeiriodd hi at yr adroddiad a gyflwynwyd ar 30/09/2022 ar y dyletswyddau newydd a roddwyd ar bwyllgorau safonau ac arweinwyr grwpiau gwleidyddol o dan Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol ac Etholiadau Cymru 2021 ac fe wnaeth hi wahodd y tri arweinydd grŵp i gyflwyno eu hadroddiadau ac ar ôl hynny gallai'r pwyllgor ofyn cwestiynau iddynt.

Fe wnaeth y Cadeirydd wahodd yr Arweinydd, Annibynwyr Sir Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, i gyflwyno ei hadroddiad yn nhrefn atodiadau'r adroddiad.
Eglurodd y Cyng Williams fod yr adroddiad wedi'i rannu'n dair adran sef:

- Arddangos ymrwymiad personol i ddatblygiad neu hyfforddiant perthnasol sy'n ymwneud â chydarddoldebau a safonau, a'u mynychu.
- Annog aelodau'r grŵp i fynychu datblygiad neu hyfforddiant perthnasol ynghylch cydraddoldeb a safonau.
- Sicrhau bod enwebeion i Bwyllgor wedi derbyn yr hyfforddiant a argymhellir ar gyfer y Pwyllgor hwnnw.

Dywedodd yr Arweinydd Grŵp er ei bod yn aelod a oedd yn dychwelyd, roedd ei grŵp yn bennaf yn cynnwys aelodau yn eu tymor cyntaf yn y swydd. Roedd y grŵp yn awyddus ac yn frwdfrydig ynglŷn â bod yn weithgar a gwneud newidiadau cynyddol er lles, fe wnaeth hi egluro. Dywedodd fod yr holl aelodau yn ei grŵp yn ymdrechu i fynychu'r holl hyfforddiant a ddarparwyd i aelodau a lle nad oeddent yn gallu mynychu'n bersonol, roeddent yn edrych ar y recordiadau fideo o'r sesiynau.

Cyfeiriodd yr Arweinydd Grŵp hefyd at aelodau newydd sy'n dal i ddysgu pa mor gyflym y mae prosesau'n gweithio, gan ychwanegu ei bod wedi bod wrth law i'w cynghori a'u harwain ar brosesau democrataidd yr Awdurdod. Dywedodd ei bod hefyd yn gweithio'n agos gydag aelodau ei grŵp o ran sylwadau anffafriol a wneir ar gyfryngau cymdeithasol, gan gynnwys y rhai a wneir yn bersonol.

Holodd aelod o'r pwyllgor, yn enwedig o ran aelodau newydd, a oedd rhywbeth y gallai'r Pwyllgor Safonau ei wneud i gynorthwyo mewn unrhyw fodd i gefnogi aelodau newydd.

Ymatebodd yr Arweinydd Grŵp ei bod yn teimlo y byddai aelodau newydd yn elwa o gael sesiwn frifio gan y Pwyllgor Safonau ar ei gyloch gorchwyl a'r math o faterion y mae'n eu hystyried.

Holodd aelod a oedd y materion yn ymwneud â chyfryngau cymdeithasol wedi tawelu wrth i'r tymor newydd hwn fynd rhagddo a gofynnodd am argymhellion ar yr hyn y teimlai arweinydd y grŵp y gellid ei wneud i gynorthwyo gyda'r hyn uchod.

Ymatebodd yr Arweinydd Grŵp nad oedd lefel yr ymosodiadau wedi lleihau nac wedi tawelu ond bod ymateb anffafriol yr aelodau newydd i ymosodiadau llafar o'r fath wedi cilio.

Diolchodd y Prif Swyddog Cyfreithiol a Rheoleiddiol, Adnoddau Dynol a Pholisi Corfforaethol i'r Arweinydd Grŵp am ei chyflwyniad a dywedodd wrth y pwyllgor ei bod wedi cydnabod yr angen i gael sesiwn brifio mewn perthynas â'r pwyllgor safonau i'r aelodau ac y bydd yn cynnwys hyn yn yr adroddiad blynyddol i'r Cyngor ym mis Gorffennaf.

Gwahoddodd y Cadeirydd Arweinydd Grŵp y Gynghrair Ddemocrataidd i gyflwyno ei adroddiad.

Dywedodd yr Arweinydd Grŵp fod ei grŵp yn cynnwys rhaniad 50/50 o'r aelodau oedd yn dychwelyd a'r rhai oedd yn eu tymor cyntaf gyda chydbwysedd o brofiad a brwdfrydedd yr oedd yn teimlo oedd yn bositif. Ailadroddodd y sylwadau a wnaed gan Arweinydd Grŵp Annibynwyr Sir Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, sef ei fod yn teimlo bod ganddynt berthynas golegol ymhlith arweinwyr grŵp a oedd yn eu galluogi i gyfarfod yn rheolaidd i drafod materion gweithredol a strategol sy'n wynebu CBS Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr. Dywedodd ei fod yn teimlo ei bod yn ffodus nad oedd unrhyw aelod o'i grŵp wedi bod yn destun cwyn, boed yn ffurfiol neu fel arall.

Gwahoddodd y Cadeirydd gwestiynau i arweinydd y grŵp a chydabu nad oedd unrhyw gwestiynau.

Fe wnaeth y Cadeirydd wahodd Arweinydd y Cyngor ac Arweinydd Grŵp y Grŵp Llafur i gyflwyno ei adroddiad.

Dywedodd yr Arweinydd bod mwyafrif o aelodau newydd o fewn y blaid a'u bod yn rhannu'r brwdfrydedd a'r egni yr oedd wedi arfer ag ef gydag aelodau mwy hirsefydlog a phrofiadol. Dywedodd eu bod ill dau yn dysgu ac yn datblygu yn y rôl ac felly nid

oeddent bob amser wedi'u harfogi â'r wybodaeth a ddeilliodd o brofiad, felly weithiau nid oeddent yn ymwybodol o holl brosesau'r Cyngor ar hyn o bryd.

Cadarnhaodd fod holl aelodau'r grŵp Llafur wedi mynychu'r holl hyfforddiant gorfodol ac roedd yn teimlo bod y sesiynau datblygu aelodau yn rhoi'r sgiliau angenrheidiol iddynt.

Cytunodd â sylwadau a wnaed gan yr arweinwyr grŵp eraill a gyflwynodd yn flaenorol, gan nodi ei fod yn teimlo bod ganddynt berthynas adeiladol, agored a chadarnhaol fel arweinwyr grŵp. Dywedodd eu bod yn ceisio arwain trwy esiampl a dangos cwrteisi a pharch at ei gilydd a chyd-aelodau o wahanol deyrngarwch gwleidyddol.

Cyfeiriodd yr Arweinydd at y mater a godwyd mewn perthynas ag ymosodiadau ar aelodau etholedig a dywedodd ei fod wedi codi hyn gyda Chomisiynydd yr Heddlu. Eglurodd i'r Pwyllgor nad yw'r ymosodiadau a grybwyllwyd yn cael eu cynnal rhwng aelodau etholedig ond yn hytrach wedi'u cyfeirio'n fwy at aelodau etholedig gan aelodau'r cyhoedd ar gyfryngau cymdeithasol.

Soniodd am gynlluniau cyfarfod gydag aelodau etholedig i ddeall lefel y trothwy lle gall ac na all yr Heddlu gymryd rhan a darparu rhywfaint o gymorth. Crybwyllodd yr Arweinydd hefyd fod cyfarfod gyda Chomisiynydd yr Heddlu i'w drefnu dros yr haf er mwyn trafod materion gan gynnwys y broblem hon.

Tynnodd yr Arweinydd sylw'r aelodau at y ddwy gŵyn a godwyd gyda'r Ombwdsmon Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus a dywedodd y byddai'n cynnwys canlyniad y rhain yn yr adroddiad blynyddol.

Holodd aelod o'r pwyllgor a oedd cyfle i gytuno ar ddatrysiad anffurfiol cyn i unrhyw gŵynion gael eu trosglwyddo i'r ombwdsmon gwasanaethau cyhoeddus.

Ymatebodd yr Arweinydd drwy ddweud, er bod rhywfaint o ymgysylltu o'r blaen, mai'r dewis a wnaed gan yr achwynydd oedd uwchgyfeirio'r gŵyn, os oedd yn teimlo bod angen gwneud hynny.

Holodd aelod o'r pwyllgor a oedd unrhyw wybodaeth am y pynciau i'w cynnwys yn y sesiwn frifio i aelodau a drefnwyd ar gyfer mis Awst.

Ymatebodd yr Arweinydd eu bod yn archwilio'r opsiynau sydd ar gael ac yn dod ag arbenigwyr i mewn a all addysgu aelodau ymhellach. Dywedodd gan ei fod yn bwnc eang, bod mesurau ymarferol o ran camau y gellir eu cymryd gan fod rhywfaint ohono yn ataliol a rhywfaint ohono'n ymwneud yn fwy â thawelwch meddwl.

Ychwanegodd y Prif Swyddog Cyfreithiol a Rheoleiddiol, Adnoddau Dynol a Pholisi Corfforaethol fod sesiwn frifio wedi'i threfnu gyda Heddlu De Cymru. Y nod oedd targedu'n benodol beth oedd y trothwyon ar gyfer ymyrraeth ganddynt ac a oedd adroddiadau'n cael eu gwneud iddynt. Roedd y Pwyllgor Gwasanaethau Democrataidd i gael adroddiad yn ei gyfarfod ym mis Medi, mewn perthynas â diogelwch personol yr Aelodau. Yn ogystal â hynny roedd y cyngor eisoes yn cysylltu â'r heddlu ynglŷn â'r cyfle i roi marcwyr (a elwir yn farcwyr heddlu) ar dai aelodau sy'n derbyn ymosodiadau personol, pe byddai angen.

Fe wnaeth hi roi sicrwydd, os oedd Aelodau unigol yn cael problemau, bod angen iddynt gysylltu â'r swyddogion perthnasol yn CBS Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr gan fod mesurau diogelwch y gallai CBS Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr eu rhoi ar waith hefyd. Yn ôl yr angen, gyda'r aelodau a gysylltodd â'r Cyngor, roedd asesiadau risg unigol wedi'u cynnal ac roedd unrhyw faterion lle roedd ei angen, wedi cael sylw priodol.

Cododd aelod o'r Pwyllgor ymholiad mewn perthynas â'r aflonyddu a wynebir gan aelodau etholedig a gofynnodd a allai sesiwn frifio'r heddlu gynnwys arweiniad a chyngor ar sut y gellid ymdrin ag achosion o'r fath.

Cytunwyd, tra'n cydnabod y gallai'r Heddlu yn unig roi cyngor ar faterion penodol ac y byddent yn gallu ymhelaethu ar drothwyon yn unol â'u profiad ar faterion o'r fath, y dylid dwyn y pryderon a godwyd i'w sylw yn barod ar gyfer y brifio.

Ymatebodd y Prif Swyddog Cyfreithiol a Rheoleiddiol, Adnoddau Dynol a Pholisi Corfforaethol y byddai'r heddlu'n paratoi'r papur brifio. Cytunodd i gysylltu â nhw a gofyn iddynt roi sylw i'r senarios a grybwyllwyd heddiw. Dywedodd y byddai'n croesawu cwestiynau gan aelodau a'u bod yn gallu ymateb i rai ymholiadau eu hunain. Awgrymodd yr Arweinydd y dylid cynnal sesiwn frifio i'r aelodau gyda'r Pwyllgor Safonau er mwyn rhoi cyfle i aelodau unigol gyfarfod ag aelodau'r pwyllgor i gael gwell dealltwriaeth o'i ddiben a'i swyddogaethau.

PENDERFYNWYD : Bod y Pwyllgor yn ystyried yr adroddiadau ynghlwm fel Atodiadau 1-3 ac yn darparu adborth fel a roddwyd uchod.

123. **ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL**

Fe wnaeth y Prif Swyddog Cyfreithiol a Rheoleiddiol, Adnoddau Dynol a Pholisi Corfforaethol gyflwyno adroddiad, a'r pwrpas oedd bod y Pwyllgor Safonau yn derbyn yr Adroddiad Blynyddol ar gyfer 2022/2023 i'w gyflwyno i'r Cyngor llawn.

PENDERFYNWYD: Cytunwyd bod y Pwyllgor yn derbyn yr Adroddiad Blynyddol ar gyfer 2022/23, a fydd yn ei dro, yn cael ei gyflwyno i'r Cyngor llawn.

124. **ADOLYGIAD ANNIBYNNOL O'R FFRAMWAITH SAFONAU MOESEGOL**

Fe wnaeth y Prif Swyddog Cyfreithiol a Rheoleiddiol, Adnoddau Dynol a Pholisi Corfforaethol gyflwyno adroddiad, a'r pwrpas oedd i'r Pwyllgor nodi'r ymgynghoriad ar yr Adolygiad Annibynnol o'r Fframwaith Safonau Moesegol (Adolygiad Penn).

Dywedodd fod y fframwaith ar gyfer hyn wedi aros yn ddigyfnewid i raddau helaeth dros yr 20 mlynedd diwethaf a theimlwyd bod adolygiad annibynnol unigol yn bwysig i gynnal hyder yn y system.

Esboniodd fod fframwaith moesegol effeithiol yn hanfodol, er mwyn sicrhau bod gan bobl ac aelodau lleol o bob cefndir yr hyder i ymgysylltu â democratiaeth leol a/neu sefyll am swydd etholedig.

Cynhaliwyd yr adolygiad annibynnol gan Richard Penn, cyn brif weithredwr awdurdod lleol a chyn-gadeirydd Panel Annibynnol Cymru ar Gydabyddiaeth Ariannol. Roedd telerau'r adolygiad wedi'u nodi ym mharagraff 2.3 o'r adroddiad.

Dywedodd y Prif Swyddog Cyfreithiol a Rheoleiddiol, Adnoddau Dynol a Pholisi Corfforaethol fod yr adolygiad wedi dod i'r casgliad bod y fframwaith presennol yn addas i'r diben ac yn gweithio'n dda yn ymarferol. Awgrymwyd bod mwy o bwyslais yn y fframwaith ar atal cwynion a gwella'r modd yr ymdrinnir â chwynion, a fydd yn arwain at ddatblygu a gwella safonau moesegol sydd eisoes yn uchel.

Dywedodd ers cyhoeddi'r adolygiad ym mis Gorffennaf 2021, bod ymgysylltu wedi digwydd â rhanddeiliaid, gan gynnwys swyddogion monitro, Ombwdsmon

Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cymru, Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru ac Un Llais Cymru. Trafodwyd argymhellion yr adolygiad hefyd yng Nghynhadledd Safonau Cymru Gyfan ym mis Chwefror 2022 a chyhoeddwyd papur ymgynghori ym mis Mawrth 2023.

Gofynnodd i'r pwyllgor nodi'r adroddiad a'r ymgynghoriad a oedd wedi bod yn mynd rhagddo ac adrodd ar ganlyniad yr ymgynghoriad i'r pwyllgor pan fydd ar gael.

PENDERFYNWYD: Bod y Pwyllgor yn nodi'r adroddiad.

125. **FFORWM CENEDLAETHOL CADEIRYDDION PWYLLGORAU SAFONAU**

Fe wnaeth y Prif Swyddog Cyfreithiol a Rheoleiddiol, Adnoddau Dynol a Pholisi Corfforaethol gyflwyno'r adroddiad, a'i ddiben oedd diweddarau'r Aelodau mewn perthynas â'r Fforwm Cenedlaethol ar gyfer Cadeiryddion Pwyllgorau Safonau.

Dywedodd fod adroddiad PEN y soniwyd amdano eisoes, wedi trafod a gwneud sylwadau ar yr amrywiaeth o arferion ledled Cymru o ran sut mae'r Pwyllgor Safonau yn cyflawni eu dyletswyddau a'u swyddogaethau.

Cydnabu Richard Penn y gwaith cadarnhaol ar gyfer fforwm Cadeiryddion Pwyllgorau Safonau yng Ngogledd a Chanolbarth Cymru ac argymhellodd y dylid sefydlu Fforwm Cymru Gyfan ar yr un trywydd i annog cysondeb yn y modd y mae'r Pwyllgor yn gweithredu ac yn cyflawni ei swyddogaethau.

Roedd pob awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru wedi cytuno i greu fforwm cenedlaethol gyda golwg ar rannu arfer da. Mae cylch gorchwyl drafft ar gyfer y fforwm wedi'i baratoi a'i gytuno gan Grŵp Swyddogion Monitro Cymru ac fel y cyfeirir ato ym mharagraff 3.2 yr adroddiad.

Dywedodd y Prif Swyddog Cyfreithiol a Rheoleiddiol, Adnoddau Dynol a Pholisi Corfforaethol fod hyn yn rhoi cyfle i Gadeiryddion rannu a chytuno i gydlynu arfer gorau tra'n gweithredu fel seinfwrdd ar gyfer syniadau ac yn creu rhwydwaith cymorth ar gyfer Cadeiryddion a phwyllgorau. Bydd pob Pwyllgor Safonau yn cadw preifatrwydd, felly ni fyddai'r fforwm yn gallu gwneud unrhyw benderfyniadau rhwymol ar ran awdurdodau lleol, ychwanegodd.

PENDERFYNWYD: Bod y Pwyllgor yn nodi'r adroddiad a chadarnhau bod y Cadeirydd a Swyddog Monitro (neu eu dirprwyon) yn cynrychioli CBSP ar y Fforwm Cenedlaethol ar gyfer Cadeiryddion Pwyllgorau Safonau.

126. **ANRHEGION A LLETYGARWCH**

Fe wnaeth y Prif Swyddog Cyfreithiol a Rheoleiddiol, Adnoddau Dynol a Pholisi Corfforaethol gyflwyno adroddiad, a'i ddiben oedd i'r Pwyllgor ystyried cysoni trothwyon rhoddion a lletygarwch er mwyn sicrhau cysondeb ag awdurdodau lleol eraill yng Nghymru.

Dywedodd ei bod yn ofynnol i aelodau, dan God Ymddygiad presennol yr aelodau, gofrestru derbyn unrhyw roddion, lletygarwch neu fuddion eraill lle'r oedd gwerth yr eitem yn uwch na'r trothwy a osodwyd gan y Cyngor. Ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr, y trothwy hwn oedd £25.

Gofynnwyd i Swyddogion Monitro ledled Cymru ofyn am farn eu Pwyllgor Safonau ar ble y dylid gosod y trothwy safonol.

Roedd yr adroddiad yn amgáu tabl yn nodi mai'r trothwy cyfartalog ar draws Cymru ar hyn o bryd oedd £25. Gofynnodd y Prif Swyddog Cyfreithiol a Rheoleiddiol, Adnoddau Dynol a Pholisi Corfforaethol i'r Pwyllgor gytuno y dylai awdurdodau lleol gysoni eu trothwyon yn wirfoddol a gofynnodd am sylwadau ynghylch a oedd yr Aelodau'n teimlo bod £25 yn swm priodol.

PENDERFYNWYD:

Bod y Pwyllgor yn cytuno i gefnogi'r cynnig y dylai awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru gysoni'n wirfoddol eu trothwyon ar gyfer cofrestru rhoddion a lletygarwch, gyda hyn yn CBSP yn aros ar £25.

127. SYLWADAU PWYLLGOR SAFONAU BRO MORGANNWG

Fe wnaeth y Prif Swyddog Cyfreithiol a Rheoleiddiol, Adnoddau Dynol a Pholisi Corfforaethol gyflwyno adroddiad, a'i ddiben oedd diweddarau'r Pwyllgor ar ôl i Aelodau (y Pwyllgor hwn) arsylwi cyfarfod o Bwyllgor Safonau Cyngor Bro Morgannwg. Gwahoddodd gwestiynau a sylwadau ar yr adroddiad.

Ymhellach i'r sylwadau a wnaed yn dilyn Pwyllgor Safonau Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, holodd y Prif Swyddog Cyfreithiol a Rheoleiddiol, Adnoddau Dynol a Pholisi Corfforaethol gydag aelodau'r pwyllgor a hoffent arsylwi unrhyw gyfarfodydd Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr neu Gynghorau Tref a Chymuned eraill o fewn y fwrdeistref.

Cyfeiriodd y Prif Swyddog Cyfreithiol a Rheoleiddiol, Adnoddau Dynol a Pholisi Corfforaethol yn ôl at bwynt yn Eitem 1, a drafodwyd gan yr Arweinwyr Grwpiau, lle buont yn trafod manteision y Pwyllgor Safonau yn cyfarfod ag aelodau etholedig. Soniodd fod y broses o recriwtio aelodau newydd i'r pwyllgor yn mynd rhagddi, ac er eu bod yn hapus i dderbyn enwebiadau yn ystod y cyfarfod, roeddent yn teimlo ei bod yn deg caniatáu i'r Aelodau hynny ymuno a chael sesiwn cynefino cyn y cynnig. Dywedodd efallai y byddai'n gyfle i'r rhai sydd ar y pwyllgor ar hyn o bryd arsylwi cyfarfod o'r Cyngor llawn, ynghyd ag unrhyw aelodau newydd pellach a fyddai'n cael eu penodi'n aelodau lleyg ar y Pwyllgor, yn y dyfodol agos.

Dywedodd y Prif Swyddog Cyfreithiol, Rheoleiddiol ac Adnoddau Dynol a Swyddog Monitro y byddai'n anfon apwyntiad calendr gyda dyddiad pan fydd y cyngor i fod i gynnal cyfarfod llawn o'r Cyngor yn y dyfodol y gallai aelodau lleyg Safonau fod yn bresennol ynddo. Yna gallai'r Aelodau roi gwybod iddi os oeddent yn gallu mynychu cyfarfod o'r fath i arsylwi'r trafodion.

Cadarnhaodd y gallai hi hefyd gysylltu â chlercod Cynghorau Tref a Chymuned i sefydlu a oeddent yn fodlon cytuno ar drefniant tebyg lle gallai aelodau lleyg y Pwyllgor Safonau hefyd arsylwi rhai o'u cyfarfodydd.

PENDERFYNWYD :

(1) Nododd y Pwyllgor yr adroddiad ar y sylwadau o gyfarfod Bro Morgannwg.

(2) Bod yr Aelodau wedi penderfynu yr hoffent arsylwi cyfarfod CBSP ac yn yr un modd gyfarfod Cyngor Tref neu Gymuned.

PWYLLGOR SAFONNAU - DYDD GWENER, 7 GORFFENNAF 2023

Dyweddodd y Cadeirydd, oherwydd rhesymau personol, mai hwn oedd ei gyfarfod olaf fel aelod o'r Pwyllgor Safonau. Byddai'n gyndyn iawn, yn cyflwyno ei ymddiswyddiad i'r swyddog monitro i'r perwyl hwn, yn dilyn y cyfarfod. Canmolwyd y cadeirydd am ei waith yn y gorffennol gan aelodau'r pwyllgor a'r Swyddog Monitro, a dymunodd y ddau yn dda iddo i'r dyfodol.

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Agenda Item 4

Meeting of:	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Date of Meeting:	16 NOVEMBER 2023
Report Title:	APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	MONITORING OFFICER
Responsible Officer:	LAURA GRIFFITHS GROUP MANAGER LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	There is no effect upon the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.
Executive Summary:	To appoint a Chair and Vice Chair for the Standards Committee due to vacancies. Any appointments will be reported to full Council for noting.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To appoint a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for the Standards Committee.

2. Background

- 2.1 Under the Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001 the members of a Standards Committee shall elect a Chairperson from amongst the Independent Members of the Committee.
- 2.2 A Chairperson shall be elected for whichever is the shorter of the following periods: (a) a period of not less than four nor more than six years, (b) until the term of office of that person as an independent member of that standards committee comes to an end.
- 2.3 The Council's Standards Committee consists of five Independent Members, two County Borough Council Members and one Town and Community Council Member.
- 2.4 There is currently a vacancy of the post of Chairperson due to the recent resignation of Mr Clifford Jones OBE.

3. Current situation / proposal

- 3.1 The Role Description for the Chair of the Standards Committee as set out within the Council's Constitution is as follows:

Accountabilities

To Full Council.

Role Purpose and Activity

- (a) *Providing Leadership and Direction*
 - (i) *To act within technical, legal and procedural requirements to oversee the functions of the committee fairly and correctly.*
 - (ii) *To ensure thoroughness and objectivity in the committee, receiving and responding to professional advice on the Code of Conduct.*
 - (iii) *To demonstrate independence, integrity and impartiality in decision making which accord with legal, constitutional and policy requirements.*
 - (iv) *To provide confident and effective management of meetings to facilitate inclusivity, participation and clear decision making.*
 - (v) *To lead the committee in its role in:*
 - (A) *promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Councillors and co-opted members;*
 - (B) *assisting the Councillors and co-opted members to observe the Members' Code of Conduct;*
 - (C) *advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct;*
 - (D) *monitoring the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct;*
 - (E) *advising, training or arranging to train Councillors, co-opted members on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct;*
 - (F) *granting dispensations to Councillors and co-opted members on dealing with any reports from a case tribunal or interim case tribunal, and any report from the Monitoring Officer on any matter referred to that officer by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales;*
 - (G) *the exercise of these functions in relation to community councils and the members of those community councils.*

Values

To be committed to the values of the council and the following values in public office:

- (b) *openness and transparency;*

- (c) *honesty and integrity;*
- (d) *tolerance and respect;*
- (e) *equality and fairness;*
- (f) *appreciation of cultural differences;*
- (g) *sustainability.*

3.2 If the Chair is absent from a meeting then the Vice-Chair shall preside, if present. If both the Chair and Vice-Chair are absent, the Committee shall choose another Independent Member to preside.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

4.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act 2010, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales, the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

5.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report. This report also assists in the achievement of the following well-being objective under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:-

A county borough where people feel valued, heard and part of their community.

5.2 The Standards Committee is responsible for promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members. Standards are an implicit requirement in the successful implementation of the corporate well-being objectives.

6. Climate Change Implications

6.1 There are no climate change implications.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 There are no safeguarding and corporate parent implications.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 Any appointments referred to in this report will be met from existing Democratic Services budgets.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 It is recommended that the Committee appoint a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from amongst the Independent Members to take office from the date of this Committee meeting for a term to be determined.

Background documents:

None

Meeting of:	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Date of Meeting:	16 NOVEMBER 2023
Report Title:	PUBLIC SERVICES OMUBUDSMAN FOR WALES ANNUAL LETTER 2022/23
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	MONITORING OFFICER
Responsible Officer:	LAURA GRIFFITHS GROUP MANAGER LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	There is no effect upon the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.
Executive Summary:	The Annual Letter for Bridgend County Borough Council must also be presented to Cabinet and the Governance and Audit Committee.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is for the Standards Committee to note the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales' Annual Letter 2022/23.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Public Service Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) is independent of all government bodies and has legal powers to investigate complaints about public services and independent care providers in Wales. They also investigate complaints that Members of local government bodies have breached their authority's Code of Conduct.
- 2.2 The PSOW reports annually on the number of complaints against public bodies received by its office.
- 2.3 The Complaints Officer is the Contact Officer for the PSOW and the Monitoring Officer is responsible for liaising with the PSOW regarding Member Code of Conduct complaints.

3. Current situation / proposal

- 3.1 **Appendix A** provides the Ombudsman's Annual Letter for 2022-2023.
- 3.2 The number of complaints against the Authority for the period 2022–2023 was 55 compared with 55 in 2021-2022 and 31 in 2020-2021. The figure for 2022-23 represents 0.38 complaints received per 1000 residents. Children's Social Services and Planning / Building Control attracted the largest number of complaints. 10 cases

were out of jurisdiction, 17 were premature, 25 were closed after initial consideration, 4 were settled by working with the Ombudsman for early resolution. One complaint proceeded to investigation and was upheld.

3.3 6 Code of Conduct complaints against the Authority's Councillors were received by the Ombudsman's Office in this period, 5 of which were discontinued and one was referred to the Standards Committee for consideration (which was concluded by the Committee at their meeting on 7 July 2023). 25 Code of Conduct complaints were received against Town and Community Councils in Bridgend County, none of which were referred to the Standards Committee, 23 of which a decision was taken not to investigate, and in 2 cases no action was necessary.

3.4 The Complaints Standards Authority publishes datasets on complaints handled by local authorities. These datasets are published on the Ombudsman's website and on the Council's website. This data shows that last year, 21% of the Council's complaints were referred to PSOW.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

4.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act 2010, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales, the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

5.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report. This report also assists in the achievement of the following well-being objective under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:-

A county borough where people feel valued, heard and part of their community.

5.2 Standards are an implicit requirement in the successful implementation of the corporate well-being objectives.

6. Climate Change Implications

6.1 There are no climate change implications.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 There are no safeguarding and corporate parent implications.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

9. Recommendation

9.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the Annual Letter for 2022/23.

Background documents:

None

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Date: 17 August 2023

Cllr. Huw David
Bridgend County Borough Council
By Email only: cllr.huw.david@bridgend.gov.uk

Annual Letter 2022/23

Dear Councillor David

I am pleased to provide you with the Annual letter (2022/23) for Bridgend County Borough Council which deals with complaints relating to maladministration and service failure, complaints relating to alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct for Councillors and the actions being taken to improve public services.

This letter coincides with my Annual Report – “[A year of change – a year of challenge](#)” – a sentiment which will no doubt resonate with public bodies across Wales. My office has seen another increase in the number of people asking for our help – up 3% overall compared to the previous year, and my office now receives double the number of cases we received a decade ago.

In the last year, I have met with public bodies across Wales – speaking about our casework, our recommendations, and our proactive powers. The current climate will continue to provide challenges for public services, but I am grateful for the positive and productive way in which local authorities continue to engage with my office.

1,020 complaints were referred to us regarding local authorities last year - a reduction of 11% compared to the previous year. During this period, we intervened in (upheld, settled or resolved at an early stage) 13% of local authority complaints.

We received fewer Code of Conduct complaints in 22/23 compared to the previous year, relating to both Principal Councils and Town and Community Councils. My role is such that I do not make final findings about breaches of the Code of Conduct. Instead, where investigations find the most serious concerns, these are referred to the Standards Committee of the relevant local authority, or the

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Adjudication Panel for Wales. In 2022/23, the Ombudsman made 12 such referrals – a welcome reduction from 20 last year.

Supporting improvement of public services

Despite the challenges of last year, we have pushed forward with our proactive improvement work and launched a new Service Quality process to ensure we deliver the standards we expect.

Last year, we began work on our second wider Own Initiative investigation – this time looking into carers assessments within local authorities. This investigation will take place throughout the coming year, and we look forward to sharing our findings with all local authorities – not just those involved in the investigation.

The Complaints Standards Authority (CSA) continued its work with public bodies in Wales last year, with more than 50 public bodies now operating our model policy. We've also now provided more than 400 training sessions since we started, with local authorities, in September 2020.

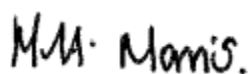
We continued our work to publish complaints statistics into a second year, with data now published twice a year. This data allows us to see information with greater context – for example, last year 21% of Bridgend County Borough Council's complaints were referred to PSOW.

I would encourage Bridgend County Borough Council, and specifically your Audit and Governance Committee, to use this data to better understand your performance on complaints and consider how well good complaints handling is embedded throughout the Authority.

Further to this letter can I ask that your Council takes the following actions:

- Present my Annual Letter to the Cabinet and to the Governance and Audit Committee at the next available opportunity and notify me of when these meetings will take place.
- Continue to engage with our Complaints Standards work, accessing training for your staff, fully implementing the model policy, and providing accurate and timely complaints data.
- Inform me of the outcome of the Council's considerations and proposed actions on the above matters at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely,



Michelle Morris
Public Services Ombudsman

cc. Mark Shephard, Chief Executive, Bridgend County Borough Council.
By Email only: mark.shephard@bridgend.gov.uk



Factsheet

Appendix A - Complaints Received

Local Authority	Complaints Received	Received per 1000 residents
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	16	0.24
Bridgend County Borough Council	55	0.38
Caerphilly County Borough Council	49	0.28
Cardiff Council*	142	0.39
Carmarthenshire County Council	53	0.28
Ceredigion County Council	35	0.49
Conwy County Borough Council	31	0.27
Denbighshire County Council	32	0.33
Flintshire County Council	65	0.42
Cyngor Gwynedd	36	0.31
Isle of Anglesey County Council	25	0.36
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	17	0.29
Monmouthshire County Council	23	0.25
Neath Port Talbot Council	39	0.27
Newport City Council	42	0.26
Pembrokeshire County Council	44	0.36
Powys County Council	38	0.29
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council**	54	0.23
Swansea Council	94	0.39
Torfaen County Borough Council	16	0.17
Vale of Glamorgan Council	49	0.37
Wrexham County Borough Council	65	0.48
Total	1020	0.33
* inc 9 Rent Smart Wales		
** inc 2 South Wales Parking Group		



Appendix B - Received by Subject

Bridgend County Borough Council	Complaints Received	% share
Adult Social Services	2	4%
Benefits Administration	0	0%
Children's Social Services	14	25%
Community Facilities, Recreation and Leisure	1	2%
Complaints Handling	7	13%
Covid19	1	2%
Education	5	9%
Environment and Environmental Health	4	7%
Finance and Taxation	0	0%
Housing	5	9%
Licensing	0	0%
Planning and Building Control	11	20%
Roads and Transport	3	5%
Various Other	2	4%
Total	55	

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Appendix C - Complaint Outcomes (* denotes intervention)

Bridgend County Borough Council		% Share
Out of Jurisdiction	10	18%
Premature	17	30%
Other cases closed after initial consideration	25	44%
Early Resolution/ voluntary settlement*	4	7%
Discontinued	0	0%
Other Reports - Not Upheld	0	0%
Other Reports Upheld*	1	2%
Public Interest Reports*	0	0%
Special Interest Reports*	0	0%
Total	57	

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Appendix D - Cases with PSOW Intervention

	No. of interventions	No. of closures	% of interventions
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	0	16	0%
Bridgend County Borough Council	5	57	9%
Caerphilly County Borough Council	6	52	12%
Cardiff Council	25	145	17%
Cardiff Council - Rent Smart Wales	1	9	11%
Carmarthenshire County Council	7	60	12%
Ceredigion County Council	13	44	30%
Conwy County Borough Council	5	35	14%
Denbighshire County Council	2	33	6%
Flintshire County Council	5	70	7%
Cyngor Gwynedd	5	33	15%
Isle of Anglesey County Council	5	25	20%
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	1	18	6%
Monmouthshire County Council	1	22	5%
Neath Port Talbot Council	7	38	18%
Newport City Council	8	48	17%
Pembrokeshire County Council	3	45	7%
Powys County Council	8	44	18%
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council	2	54	4%
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council - South Wales Parking Group	0	2	0%
Swansea Council	10	99	10%
Torfaen County Borough Council	1	17	6%
Vale of Glamorgan Council	15	53	28%
Wrexham County Borough Council	6	67	9%
Total	141	1086	13%



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Appendix E - Code of Conduct Complaints

		Bridgend County Borough Council
Investigations	Decision not to investigate	0
	Discontinued	5
	No evidence of breach	0
	No action necessary	0
	Refer to Adjudication Panel	0
	Refer to Standards Committee	1
	Total	6

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Appendix F - Town/Community Council Code of Complaints

Town/Community Council	Decision not to investigate	Investigations				Refer to Adjudication Panel	Refer to Standards Committee	Total
		Discontinued	No evidence of breach	No action necessary				
Brackla Community Council	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	
Bridgend Town Council	5	0	0	1	0	0	6	
Coity Higher Community Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Laleston Community Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Llangynwyd Middle Community Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Maesteg Town Council	9	0	0	0	0	0	9	
Newcastle Higher Community Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Pencoed Town Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Porthcawl Town Council	4	0	0	1	0	0	5	
Ynysawdre Community Council	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	

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Information Sheet

Appendix A shows the number of complaints received by PSOW for all Local Authorities in 2022/23. These complaints are contextualised by the population of each authority.

Appendix B shows the categorisation of each complaint received, and what proportion of received complaints represents for the Local Authority.

Appendix C shows outcomes of the complaints which PSOW closed for the Local Authority in 2022/23. This table shows both the volume, and the proportion that each outcome represents for the Local Authority.

Appendix D shows Intervention Rates for all Local Authorities in 2022/23. An intervention is categorised by either an upheld complaint (either public interest or non-public interest), an early resolution, or a voluntary settlement.

Appendix E shows the outcomes of Code Of Conduct complaints closed by PSOW related to Local Authority in 2022/23. This table shows both the volume, and the proportion that each outcome represents for the Local Authority.

Appendix F shows the outcomes of Code of Conduct complaints closed by PSOW related to Town and Community Councils in the Local Authority's area in 2022/23. This table shows both the volume, and the proportion that each outcome represents for each Town or Community Council.

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Agenda Item 6

Meeting of:	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Date of Meeting:	16 NOVEMBER 2023
Report Title:	OBSERVING TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS AND COUNCIL MEETINGS
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	MONITORING OFFICER
Responsible Officer:	LAURA GRIFFITHS GROUP MANAGER LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	There is no effect upon the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.
Executive Summary:	To agree a process for Independent Members of the Standards Committee to observe Town and Community Council meetings and meetings of the Council.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with an overview of the process for observing future meetings of Bridgend County Borough Council and Town and Community Council meetings.

2. Background

- 2.1 There are a number of roles and functions of the Standards Committee, one of which is to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Councillors and Co-opted Members. As part of the Committee's work programme, it has been agreed that Independent Members of the Standards Committee would attend meetings of Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) and Town and Community Council (TCC) meetings to observe meetings with a view to promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct in line with the Members' Code of Conduct.

3. Current situation / proposal

- 3.1 In deciding which meetings to attend, it is proposed that the Committee consider the following:
 - BCBC Council meetings are deemed pivotal as this is where all County Borough Elected Members meet and where political discussions take place and decisions are made.

- Members may wish to observe an Overview and Scrutiny Committee as it provides an opportunity for Members to hold the Executive and Senior Officers to account in relation to decisions made and to be made.
- Observing TCC meetings and the undertaking of observations from Clerks and Chairs of TCCs allows the sharing of good practice.
- The Governance and Audit Committee is regularly observed by external regulators and therefore it may be considered excessive for the Committee to also attend to observe these meetings.
- The Committee may wish to observe a regulatory committee.

3.2 It is proposed that a schedule of future visits is produced and an Observation Evaluation Sheet to provide the Independent Members with a list of questions to consider when undertaking the visits. Chairs of BCBC Council meetings and Clerks of TCCs will then be advised by Democratic Services that Independent Members intend observing. Consideration needs to be given as to whether Council Members will be advised beforehand of the attendance of Independent Members. The arrangements for attending meetings of BCBC will also be shared in advance with Group Leaders.

3.3 Following the observation, it is recommended that the information gathered and any concerns / comments of the Independent Members are fed back to the Committee Chairs, Clerks and / or Chair of the TCCs by the Monitoring Officer. The Independent Members will also report to the next available Standards Committee following their visits. The Monitoring Officer may also seek to receive feedback of how Chairs and / or Clerks intend to take any suggestions made, as a result of observations, forward.

3.4 Whilst the intention of the Committee would be to restrict the observations made to Code of Conduct matters, it is inevitable that other process / governance issues may emerge which Members may include in their observations in the hope they assist BCBC, TCCs and its Members moving forward.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

4.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act 2010, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales, the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

5.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report. This report also assists in the achievement of the following well-being objective under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:-

A county borough where people feel valued, heard and part of their community.

5.2 The Standards Committee is responsible for promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members. Standards are an implicit requirement in the successful implementation of the corporate well-being objectives.

6. Climate Change Implications

6.1 There are no climate change implications.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 There are no safeguarding and corporate parent implications.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 Independent Members are able to be remunerated for attendance under the allowance scheme agreed by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales. The costs will be met from existing Democratic Services budget.

9. Recommendation

9.1 Members are requested to note the report and approve the process for observing future meetings of BCBC and TCCs.

Background documents:

None

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