

STANDARDS COMMITTEE - WEDNESDAY, 8 JULY 2026

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD REMOTELY - VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON WEDNESDAY, 8 JULY 2026 AT 10:00

Present Virtually

S Maughan – Chairperson

JE Evans
P Baker

M Daley
R Lynch

MJ Williams
S Maughan

G Thomas
HJ David

Officers:

Kelly Watson
Oscar Roberts

Chief Officer – Legal, Regulatory and Electoral Services
Democratic Services Officer - Committees

Invitees:

Councillor John Spanswick
Councillor Amanda Williams
Councillor Ross Penhale-Thomas

Leader of the Council
Leader of the Largest Opposition Group
Democratic Alliance Group Leader

Councillor Huw David was welcomed to the Committee, replacing Councillor Graham Walter who was thanked for his years of service on the Standards Committee.

200. Apologies for Absence

Decision Made	There were no apologies for absence.
Date Decision Made	8 July 2026

201. Declarations of Interest

This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg

STANDARDS COMMITTEE - WEDNESDAY, 8 JULY 2026

Decision Made	The following declarations of interest were received:- • Councillor Martin Williams declared a personal interest in item 4, as he is married to one of the Group Leaders. • Councillor John Spanswick declared a personal interest in item 5, as he was involved with a case detailed in the report. • Councillor Huw David declared a personal interest in item 4, as he is a member of one of the groups mentioned in the report.
Date Decision Made	8 July 2026

202. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of the 12/02/2026 were approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	8 July 2026

203. Standards of Conduct

Decision Made	The purpose of this report, presented by the Chief Officer – Legal, Regulatory and Electoral Services, was to present to the Standards Committee the reports of the three political Group Leaders of the Council outlining their compliance with their duties in relation to high standards of conduct. The Committee posed questions on: • Why sections of the reports are unfilled. • Why meetings between Group Leaders are not happening more frequently. • Additional support that Group Leaders can receive from the Committee or from BCBC. • Representation in this report for Members that lack a wider group. • Guidance on appropriate communication that can be given to Elected Members. • Whether feedback gathered from meeting observations is shared with Group Leaders.
---------------	---

STANDARDS COMMITTEE - WEDNESDAY, 8 JULY 2026

	These questions were addressed by the Leader of the Council, the Leader of the Largest Opposition Group, the Democratic Alliance Group Leader and the Chief Officer – Legal, Regulatory and Electoral Services. It was proposed that Democratic Services inform all Councillors of the annual Standards of Conduct reports to increase awareness among Elected Members and to encourage participation. Concerns were raised over the enforcement of previously passed freedom of speech and misinformation/disinformation measures in Full Council, and their intersection with potential Code of Conduct violations and investigations. These measures were also considered in the context of potential candidates for Elected Member positions as well as formal BCBC Councillors. <u>RESOLVED:</u> That the Committee considered the reports and provided feedback to the Group Leaders. It was agreed to send email communication to all Elected Members expressing gratitude for a more harmonious Council atmosphere as well as other changes that have happened, as well as the Committee's hopes that this atmosphere be maintained following next year's elections, as well as reminding Members of potential consequences and sanctions for not complying with standards.
Date Decision Made	8 July 2026

204. Annual Report

Decision Made	The purpose of this report, presented by the Chief Officer – Legal, Regulatory and Electoral Services, was for the Committee to approve its Annual Report for 2025/26 to be reported to Council. The Committee posed questions on: • Why BCBC meetings are not included within the report. • Comparisons between this year and previous years' numbers. • Progress on actions recommended to be taken by BCBC and the percentage of these that have been completed.
---------------	---

STANDARDS COMMITTEE - WEDNESDAY, 8 JULY 2026

	• The publication date of the corresponding Public Services Ombudsman for Wales report. • Whether communication expressing BCBC's disappointment at the PSOW's delay of the report can be sent to them. • Whether the Committee could view the recommendations given to BCBC at the next meeting. • Whether Councillors under sanctions have undertaken training imposed as part of said sanctions. These questions were addressed by the Chief Officer – Legal, Regulatory and Electoral Services, noting that communication with the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales is ongoing in regards to obtaining as much useful data as possible from their reports. <u>RESOLVED:</u> That the Committee approved the Annual Report for reporting to Council. It was further agreed to provide the Committee with details of the recommendations given to BCBC from the PSOW's prior Annual Report. It was also agreed to send formal letters to Councillors under sanctions who have not undertaken recommended training expressing the Committee's disappointment and notifying the PSOW of their failure to comply.
Date Decision Made	8 July 2026

205. Urgent Items

Decision Made	There were no urgent items.
Date Decision Made	8 July 2026

To observe further debate that took place on the above items, please click this [link](#)

The meeting closed at 11:03.

This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg