

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE
12 DECEMBER 2019
REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER
STANDARDS COMMITTEE TRAINING

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To consider appropriate training programmes for the Committee.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority

2.1 Standards are an implicit requirement in the successful achievement of the corporate priorities.

2.2 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate priority/priorities:

Smarter use of resources – ensuring that all its resources (financial, physical, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the development of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's priorities.

3. Background

3.1 It is essential that Members of the Standards Committee are adequately trained if they are to effectively and efficiently carry out their roles.

4. Current situation / proposal

4.1 All members of the Committee have undertaken a comprehensive induction programme which included training on the Code of Conduct.

4.2 At the 2018 Standards Conference Wales, held in the University of Wales, Members were able to participate in a variety of workshops on relevant topics such as; sharing best practice in the role of the Standards Committee, personal and prejudicial interests and dispensations; the practical aspects of holding a Standards Hearing and Social Media and Bullying. The Conference was also addressed by Nick Bennett, the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales and the President of the Adjudication Panel for Wales on current issues relevant to their offices.

4.3 Consideration will be given to joint training sessions with other Standards Committees across Wales and for Members to observe other Standard Committees in order to engage, share good practices and experiences. It was recognised in the 2018 Conference that there is a need to incorporate good practices of other Standards Committees across Wales.

4.4 Arrangements are being made for a training session on Chairing meetings to be held. This may focus on the Independent Members who are required to chair the meeting of the Standards Committee and it is hoped that this will take place in the New Year.

4.5 No training has been provided in relation to the procedure that the Committee will follow where it is required to make decisions about the conduct of Councillors following investigations by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales or the Council's Monitoring Officer. It is anticipated that this will be arranged at such time as it becomes necessary.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules

5.1 None.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 None.

7. Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Implications

7.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. As the report is for noting only, 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.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 Where appropriate, training will be delivered or supported using internal resources, but where necessary external providers will be utilised with the costs met using existing resources.

9. Recommendation

9.1 Members are requested to note the report and consider training requirements they may have.

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Background Documents
None