

Meeting of:	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Date of Meeting:	12 FEBRUARY 2026
Report Title:	UPDATES FROM OBSERVING TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS
Report Owner: Responsible Chief Officer / Cabinet Member	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 update the Committee following Members of this Committee observing meetings of Town and Community Councils.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Standards Committee following Members of this Committee observing meetings of Town and Community Councils.

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 previously 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.
- 2.2 In deciding which meetings to attend, it was proposed that the Committee consider the following:
- BCBC Council meetings are deemed pivotal as this is where all Elected Members meet, political discussions are held 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.

2.3 A schedule of future visits has been produced and an Observation Evaluation Sheet to provide 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 of the dates of the meetings that Independent Members intend observing in order that arrangements for the agenda and the link to the meeting can be forwarded to the Members in time for the meeting. The arrangements for attending meetings of BCBC will also be shared and approved in advance by the Group Leaders.

2.4 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.

2.5 Whilst the intention of the Standards 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.

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 There have been three recent observations:

- 15 January 2026 – Brackla Community Council
- 10 November 2025 – St Brides Minor Community Council
- 28 October 2025 – Maesteg Town Council

3.2 The observation sheets are attached as **Appendix 1**. There were no specific concerns raised during the observations and no matter needed to be reported back to the Chairs / Clerks for further consideration.

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. 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 and Nature Implications

- 6.1 There are no climate change or nature implications arising from this report.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

- 7.1 There are no safeguarding and corporate parent implications arising from this report.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 Independent Members are able to be remunerated for attendance under the allowance scheme agreed by the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru (DBCC). The costs will be met from the existing Democratic Services budget.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 Members are recommended to note the report.

Background documents:

None