

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
11th MARCH 2016

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) BILL

Recommendations / key decisions required:

To consider the report

Reasons:

The subject matter of this report falls within the remit of the Committee

Scrutiny Committee recommendations / comments:

Not applicable

Exec Board Decision Required NO

Council Decision Required NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr E Dole (Leader)

Directorate

Chief Executives

Name of Head of Service:

Linda Rees-Jones

Report Author:

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Designations:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY STANDARDS COMMITTEE 11TH MARCH 2016

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) BILL

The draft Local Government (Wales) Bill was published on the 24th November 2015. Although media attention has focussed on the proposals to reduce the number of Counties and County Boroughs, the Bill contains other provisions of particular relevance to the work of the Standards Committee. These include;

1. The broadcasting of meetings of Council committees (including the Standards Committee) which are open to the public (Section 76)
2. Placing a statutory duty upon members to attend 'all relevant meetings' (Section 82), to hold surgeries (Section 83), to answer correspondence (section 84) and to attend any training course which the Council has designated as compulsory (section 85) unless they have good reason for not doing so.
3. Complaints in relation to breach of the duties under sections 82-85 are to be made to the Monitoring Officer who must refer them to the Chair of the Standards Committee. If either wishes the complaint to be investigated, then it must be investigated. (Section 88)
4. If such an investigation is undertaken the Monitoring Officer must report to Standards Committee, who must determine whether a breach has taken place and if they consider it has, may censure or suspend the member concerned or take no further action. (Sections 91 to 93)
5. Placing a duty upon Standards Committees to train members in relation to their duties under sections 82-85 of the Bill (Section 96)
6. Placing a duty on Group Leaders to co-operate with the Standards Committee in the exercise of its functions. (Section 98)
7. Placing a duty on Standards Committees to make an annual report setting out how it has discharged its functions and in particular those specified in the Bill (Section 109)
8. Placing a duty on the County Council to consider whether any training for community councillors should be compulsory and securing that such training is provided. (Section 167). Placing a duty on community councillors to undertake such training unless they have a good reason for not doing so (Section 168)

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

NO

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: **L. Rees-Jones**

Head of Administration and Law

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: **L. Rees-Jones**

Head of Administration and Law

(Please specify the outcomes of consultations undertaken where they arise against the following headings)

- 1. Scrutiny Committee**
Not applicable
- 2. Local Member(s)**
Not applicable
- 3. Community / Town Council**
Not applicable
- 4. Relevant Partners**
Not applicable
- 5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations**
Not applicable

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Legal file	DPSC-141	Legal Services, County Hall