

Statutory and Non - Statutory Guidance issued June 2023 (and updated in July 2023 and August 2023.)

Role of Leader of Political Group -

Section 52 of the Local Government 2000 Act as amended by section 62 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, requires that a leader of a political group consisting of members of a County Council or County Borough Council in Wales –

1. must take reasonable steps to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by the members of the group, and
2. must cooperate with the council's standards committee (and any sub - committee of the committee) in the exercise of the standards committee's functions.

The Statutory and Non- Statutory Guidance includes at Part 2 the requirements to establish -

“the threshold which the Standards Committee will use to establish whether it is content that Political Group Leaders have complied with the duties of the 2021 Act” .

Following discussions with the Chair and the Vice-Chair the following suggestions have been put forward with regard to the threshold to be used it being noted that the threshold would not have regard to historical matters which arose before the duty was in place;

1. Group Leaders to make themselves available to meet with the Monitoring Officer, Chair and Vice-Chair of the Standards Committee and Standards Committee as required,
2. Group Leaders to meet with the Standards Committee on an annual basis at the start of each council year,
3. Group Leaders to meet with the Monitoring officer and Chair and Vice-Chair of Standards Committee on a six monthly basis.
4. Group Leaders to take reasonable steps to ensure that Members within their group make themselves available to meet with the Monitoring officer as required,
5. Group Leaders to take reasonable steps to ensure that Members within their group cooperate with the Monitoring Officer and the Standards Committee when an issue is referred to the Monitoring Officer and or the Standards Committee,
6. Group Leaders to record any areas of concern in their Groups and raise them with the Monitoring Officer in a timely manner.
7. Group leaders to take reasonable steps to ensure Member attendance at mandatory training events,
8. Group Leaders to take reasonable steps to ensure that factually inaccurate information is not put into the public domain by their Members so as not to damage the reputation of the Council,

9. Group Leaders to ensure that the relevant DBS checks are applied for by Members, as and when required, in line with Cabinet resolution and that Members engage with the process in a timely manner,
10. Group Leaders to complete the Group Leader proforma, promoting compliance with the Code of Conduct, as required,