STANDARDS COMMITTEE
15TH SEPTEMBER 2017

Welsh Government White Paper on Reforming Local Government

Recommendations / key decisions required:

To note the report

Reasons:

The proposals contained within the White Paper have the potential to significantly impact the work 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:	Designations:	
Linda Rees-Jones	Head of Administration & Law	Tel Nos.
Report Author:		01267 224018
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
STANDARDS COMMITTEE
15TH SEPTEMBER 2017

Welsh Government White Paper on Reforming Local Government

In January 2017 the Welsh Government published a White Paper entitled 'Reforming Local Government: Resilient and Renewed'. The paper set out proposals for the delivery of a wide range of Council services on a regional basis, whilst retaining the existing 22 Unitary Authorities.

Although the main focus of the White Paper is this regionalisation of service delivery, there are a number of proposals which have the potential to significantly impact upon the Standards Committee. These are;

1. The placing of specific statutory duties on Councillors in relation to how they engage with the public. ('Prescribed Performance Duties')
2. Standards Committees to hear cases of alleged failure by Councillors to perform those duties
3. Requiring Standards Committees to advise and train to Councillors in respect of these duties
4. The placing of specific statutory duties upon leaders of political groups to promote good standards of conduct within their group and co-operate with Standards Committees in the exercise of their functions
5. Placing a duty on Town and Community Councils to consider and plan for their training needs.
6. Possible changes to the Members Code of Conduct to reflect the duty of Councillors to act in the interests of their region, as well as the local authority of which they are a member.
7. A duty on Standards Committees to, as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of each financial year, submit an annual report to the authority in respect of that year describing how the committee's functions have been discharged during that financial year. This includes a requirement to assess the extent to which leaders of political groups on the Council have complied with their duty to promote good standards of conduct and co-operated with the Standards Committee.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?	YES

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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: Linda 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**

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CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Linda 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

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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-153	Legal Services, County Hall