

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
11TH APRIL 2016

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (STANDARDS COMMITTEES,
INVESTIGATIONS, DISPENSATIONS and REFERRAL) (WALES)
(AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2016**

Recommendations / key decisions required:

To note the changes

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:

Robert Edgecombe

Designations:

Head of Administration & Law

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
STANDARDS COMMITTEE
11TH APRIL 2016**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (STANDARDS COMMITTEES,
INVESTIGATIONS, DISPENSATIONS and REFERRAL) (WALES)
(AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2016**

The above regulations came into force on the 1st April 2016 and amend the following legislation;

- The Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001
- The Local Government Investigations (Functions of Monitoring Officers and Standards Committee) (Wales) Regulations 2001
- Local Authorities (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001

The effect of these amendments is to;

1. To allow two or more authorities to establish a joint standards committee
2. To enable the Council to extend the term of office of county council and community council members of Standards Committee until the next ordinary election in 2017.
3. To remove the current limit on the duration of a county council or community council member of the committee of 4 years.
4. To enable the committee to delay publication of agendas and other information relating to a misconduct investigation until the misconduct proceedings are concluded
5. To allow a Standards Committee (or a Monitoring Officer with the agreement of the Chair of Standards Committee) to refer a misconduct investigation to another authority's Standards Committee for determination.
6. Confirms the powers of Standards Committees to suspend a member are limited to 6 months or the member's term of office if that is less than 6 months.
7. Introduces a general category of dispensation - 'if considered appropriate in all the circumstances to do so where not otherwise possible to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate a person's disability'. An ongoing dispensation granted under this ground is subject to annual review.

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: **Linda Rees Jones** **Head of Administration and Law**

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

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-142	Legal Services, County Hall