

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
13/12/2021

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS (WALES) ACT 2021		
Recommendations / key decisions required: To note the legislative changes being made by the Act in relation to political group leaders and agree the approach that the committee is to take on the issue		
Reasons: The Act places new duties on political group leaders in relation to member conduct		
Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted NA		
Exec. Board Decision Required		NA
Council Decision Required		NA
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr Emlyn Dole - Leader		
Directorate: Name of Head of Service: Linda Rees-Jones Report Author: Robert Edgecombe	Designations: Head of Administration and Law Legal Services Manager	Tel: Email addresses: rjedgeco@carmarthenshire.gov.uk 01267 224018

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
STANDARDS COMMITTEE
13/12/2021**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS (WALES) ACT 2021

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 contains several provisions which directly relate to political group leaders and the working of the Standards Committee. These are

- A duty on the leaders of political groups to take reasonable steps to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by the members of their group
- A duty on the leaders of political groups to co-operate with the standards committee in the exercise of that committee's functions
- Amending the functions of the Standards Committee to include monitoring compliance by group leaders with the above duties and advising and training them in respect of those duties.
- Introduces a statutory requirement on Standards committees to produce an annual report as soon as possible after the end of each financial year. And prescribes certain content to be included in those reports, namely
 - (a) A summary of what has been done to discharge the functions referred to above
 - (b) A summary of any reports or recommendations received
 - (c) A summary of any action taken following consideration of any reports or recommendations received
 - (d) An assessment of the extent to which political group leaders have complied with their duties under the Act

The Committee therefore needs to consider how it will

- engage with political group leaders in relation to their duties
- assess how political group leaders have complied with their duties under the Act

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: *LRJones*

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: *LRJones*

Head of Administration and Law

1. **Scrutiny Committee** – not applicable
2. **Local Member(s)** - not applicable
3. **Community / Town Council** - it is suggested that such consultation take place
4. **Relevant Partners** - not applicable
5. **Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** - not applicable

**CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S)
AWARE/CONSULTED**

NO

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Legal Services file	DPSC-192	County Hall, Carmarthen