

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS (WALES) ACT 2021

## DISCUSSION PAPER

### DUTIES ON POLITICAL GROUP LEADERS

1. A duty to take reasonable steps to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by the members of their group
  - What does the committee consider to be 'reasonable steps'?
  - Should the committee identify what it feels group leaders should be doing specifically to meet this duty and communicate those expectations to group leaders in writing?
  - To what extent do the committee feel group leaders should be held to account for the conduct of their group members?
2. A duty on the leaders of political groups to co-operate with the standards committee in the exercise of that committee's functions
  - What does the committee consider to be sufficient 'co-operation' to satisfy this duty? Does this extend to following recommendations made by the committee?
  - Should the committee identify what it feels group leaders should be doing specifically to meet this duty and communicate those expectations to group leaders in writing?

### **The Act then goes on to place two duties on the Committee**

1. Monitoring compliance by group leaders with the above duties and advising and training them in respect of their new duties
  - How will the committee monitor compliance by group leaders?
  - Will it seek to adopt meaningful performance indicators against which their performance can be measured?
  - If yes, what indicators do the committee wish to adopt?
  - How will it advise/train them?

2. A duty to include in its annual report to Full Council an assessment of the extent to which political group leaders have complied with their duties under the Act

- What approach will the committee want to take in respect of this. Will it address group leaders compliance in a general, collective way, or address each individuals compliance separately?
- Will the committee want to undertake interim assessments of compliance during the year and communicate any conclusions to the group leaders.
- Will group leaders be given an opportunity to comment upon/respond to any assessment before it is published.