

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

7th MARCH 2023

CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLIANCE BY TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS

Purpose: To agree the scope and methodology for the 2022/2023 code compliance exercise

To consider and comment on the following issues:

To agree the following

1. The compliance questions to be asked
2. How the data is to be supplied by councils
3. How the data is to be presented to the committee

Reasons:

- To ensure that the committee receives the data it needs to enable it for perform its functions in relation to Town and Community Councils.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Not Applicable

Directorate Name of Head of Service: Linda Rees Jones Report Author: Robert Edgecombe	Designations: Head of Administration and Law Legal Services Manager	Tel Nos. 01267 224012 LRJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk 01267 224018 rjedgeco@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
--	--	---

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
STANDARDS COMMITTEE
7th MARCH, 2023

Code of Conduct Compliance by Town and Community Councillors

For several years, the committee has undertaken a data gathering exercise with Town and Community Councils aimed at establishing the level of compliance with the members code of conduct in those organisations.

The questions normally asked related to

1. The number of declarations of interest made by councillors during the preceding municipal year
2. Whether the members and clerk had received code of conduct training during the preceding year

This information, combined with data regarding code of conduct complaints and dispensation requests gives the committee an overall picture of code compliance in the County.

Considering the provisions of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 regarding training for Town and Community Councils it is proposed that additional questions be added to this year's exercise, namely

1. Whether the Council has adopted a training plan for its members
2. Whether that plan has been published on the Council's website
3. Whether the plan includes a requirement for members to undertake code of conduct training
4. Whether the plan has been implemented

It is therefore proposed that

- The data be collected via an online snap survey, which will reduce the administrative burden of the exercise considerably.
- The data be presented to the committee using a mixture of charts and graphs, ideally allowing comparison with the preceding municipal year.
- The target date for delivery of the report be the scheduled quarterly committee meeting in December 2023.

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
--	----------------------	------------------------	--------------------	---------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	--------------------------------

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** - not applicable
4. **Relevant Partners** - not applicable
5. **Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** - not applicable

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED
NO

N/A

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

There are none.