

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
12/06/2023

POLITICAL GROUP LEADERS DUTIES UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS (WALES) ACT 2021

Purpose:

To consider the reports received from the Group Leaders and form an opinion as to whether they have complied with their duties under the 2021 Act

Recommendations / key decisions required:

Whether the Group Leaders have complied with their duties under the Act

Reasons:

The 2021 Act places a duty on the Standards Committee to report to Full Council as to how well the Group Leaders have performed these duties

Cabinet Decision Required NO

Council Decision Required NO

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Not applicable

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

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
STANDARDS COMMITTEE
12/06/2023**

POLITICAL GROUP LEADERS DUTIES UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS (WALES) ACT 2021

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 placed a requirement upon Political Group Leaders in unitary authorities to

1. Take reasonable steps to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by the members of their group.
2. Co-operate with the council's standards committee in the exercise of the standards committee's functions.

The Act also places a duty on Standards Committees to report to Full Council on the Group Leader's performance of those duties.

The 3 Group Leaders were made aware of these duties by the Monitoring Officer following the May 2022 elections.

The Chair of the Standards Committee subsequently wrote to the Group Leaders in February 2023 reminding them of these duties and asking that they provide a report setting out how they had fulfilled them by the 31st March 2023. Group Leaders were also provided with a template which they could use for their report if they so wished.

- Councillor Darren Price (Leader of the Plaid Cymru Group) provided his report on 29.03.2023
- Councillor Rob James (Leader of the Labour Group) provided his report on 25.05.2023
- Councillor Jane Tremlett (Leader of the Independent Group) provided her report on 31.03.2023.

Copies of these reports are attached.

The Committee will need to assess the extent to which the Group Leaders have complied with their duties under the 2021 Act and make such recommendations as they think fit.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

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	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

2. Legal

The Standards Committee is required to report to Full Council regarding how well the Group Leaders have performed their duties under the 2021 Act. It is proposed that this take place at the July 2023 Full Council meeting.

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

1. Scrutiny Committee request for pre-determination	N/A
Scrutiny Committee	N/A
Date the report was considered:-	N/A
Scrutiny Committee Outcome/Recommendations:-	
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	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 Department File	DPSC-210	County Hall Carmarthen