

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
12/06/2023

Welsh Government Consultation on the recommendations of the Independent Review of the Ethical Standards Framework (Penn Report)

Purpose:

To consider the consultation documents

Recommendations / key decisions required:

To determine the committee's responses to the consultation questions.

Reasons:

Several of the recommendations directly impact upon the operation of the Code of Conduct and the work of Standards Committees

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**

Welsh Government Consultation on the recommendations of the Independent Review of the Ethical Standards Framework (Penn Report)

In March 2021 the Welsh Government commissioned a review of the current Ethical Standards Framework for local government, which had been established under the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000.

The review was carried out by Richard Penn, a former local authority chief executive and chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales and made several recommendations regarding the ethical framework ('the Penn Report')

The Welsh Government is now consulting on its proposed responses to the recommendations contained within the Penn report. The consultation document and annexes are enclosed.

Welsh Government's responses to 12 recommendations are outlined in the consultation document. In addition, Welsh Government is also consulting upon other related matters that have arisen following the publication of the Penn Report.

Much of the consultation document relates to the role and operation of the Adjudication Panel for Wales (APW). The matters that the committee may consider to be of particular interest are.

- Recommendation 7 (Mandatory Code of Conduct Training)
- Recommendation 11 (Role of Standards Committees)
- Recruitment of Independent Members of Standards Committees (Questions 13-15)
- Standards Committees powers to summon witnesses and impose sanctions (Questions 16-17)

The consultation exercise ends on the 23rd June 2023.

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

Several of the matters outlined in the consultation document will have a direct impact upon the Standards Committee if adopted.

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-212	County Hall Carmarthen