

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

18th SEPTEMBER 2023

CODE OF CONDUCT DATA 2022-2023

Purpose:

To note the Code of Conduct Data gathered in respect of Town and Community Councils and determine what steps (if any) should be taken as a result.

To consider and comment on the following issues:

To consider whether the data demonstrates good levels of code of conduct compliance

Reasons:

This forms part of the functions of the committee

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Not Applicable

Directorate

Name of Head of Service:

Linda Rees Jones

Designations:

Head of Administration and Law

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

STANDARDS COMMITTEE 18TH SEPTEMBER 2023

CODE OF CONDUCT DATA 2022-2023

During the committee meeting on the 7th March 2023 the committee resolved to undertake a further code of conduct data gathering exercise, with a view to the results being reported on the 18th September 2023. In addition to the usual questions regarding declarations of interest and code of conduct training, Councils were also asked additional questions regarding their compliance with legislative requirements relating to the provision of training plans for their members, pursuant to the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

For the first time Councils were asked to directly complete an online snap survey rather than provide a written response to the questions.

The survey was sent to all councils in early May 2023 with a deadline of the 1st July for responses. Response rates were monitored by officers and a reminder sent to Councils in June 2023. This was followed up by telephone calls to those Councils who had not completed the survey by the end of July.

At the time of preparing this report 58 out of 72 Councils had responded. This represents a decrease (from 67) compared to last year.

The results of the snap survey are annexed to this report along with comparative data for the previous year.

Overall the survey suggests that there is still generally good compliance with the code by Town and Community Councillors. Levels of concluded code complaints are low and the vast majority of councils are recording declarations of interest during the year.

Disappointingly only half of Councils appear to have adopted a training plan as required by the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

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

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED	N/A
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**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

There are none.