

# STANDARDS COMMITTEE

18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023

## GROUP LEADERS DUTY: STATUTORY GUIDANCE

### Purpose:

To note the terms of the Guidance and agree an approach to the performance of the committee's function

### To consider and comment on the following issues:

How the Committee wishes to perform its role in light of the provisions of the guidance

### Reasons:

The Guidance gives a clear indication of the approach the committee should take

### 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

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## STANDARDS COMMITTEE 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023

### GROUP LEADERS DUTY: STATUTORY GUIDANCE

In the June 2023 the Welsh Government published statutory guidance in relation to the operation of the Group Leaders duty under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

The scope of the guidance goes beyond just the Group Leaders duty – the relevant provisions can be found in Part 2 of the guidance in sections 4.0 to 7.0. A copy of the full guidance is attached.

New key points contained in the guidance include

1. Para 4.36 – the committee should meet with political group leaders at the start of each Council year to agree
  - (a) How group leaders and the standards committee will work together to ensure appropriate standards of behaviour;
  - (b) Frequency of meetings between group leaders and the standards committee throughout the year;
  - (c) The threshold which the standards committee will use to establish whether it is content that political group leaders have complied with the duties of the 2021 Act;
  - (d) The mechanism for political group leaders to provide reports to the standards committee about the actions they have taken to comply with the duties within the 2021 Act.
2. Para 5.10 - The regular review of the Council's approach on gifts and hospitality and the use of thresholds. These matters should also be addressed in the committee's annual report.
3. Para 7.4 – reporting in the committee annual report on the number of cases considered under the local resolution process
4. Para 7.8 – sharing the committee's annual report with the Ombudsman and Town and Community Councils.

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
<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>

## 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

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

There are none.