

Report to	Standards Committee
Date of meeting	28 th October 2022
Lead Member / Officer	Gary Williams, Corporate Director, Governance and Business/ Monitoring Officer
Report author	Lisa Jones, Legal Services Manager/Deputy Monitoring Officer
Title	Attendance at Meetings

1. What is the report about?

The Committee has requested a report to consider a structured approach to their attendance and observation at meetings and feedback.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

One of the Committee's methods of overseeing adherence to the Code of Conduct is to attend County, City, Town or Community Council meetings either online or in person and a structured approach is preferable hence this report.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That Members consider and agree a co-ordinated and structured approach.

4. Report details

4.1 County Council Meetings

Members of Standards Committee in previous terms have generally attended the main full Council meeting rather than any other Committee, such as Democratic Services or a Scrutiny Committee for example. A list of the public meetings is attached at Appendix 1 for information and details of the latest meeting can be accessed on the Councils website. Standards members have traditionally focused their efforts on Town, City and Community Councils but may wish to attend and

observe occasional County level meetings. A legal advisor or Monitoring Officer is not present at all Committees and not all Committees are webcasted therefore Members may wish to discuss whether they wish to increase their activity at County level.

4. 2 Town, City and Community Meetings.

In previous terms the Committee' approach has been to work through the list of Councils and agree which Member will attend particular Councils. Members have shared the workload and reported back their findings as and when they are able to feasibly attend the meetings. A central record of attendances has been kept by the Monitoring Officer in previous years albeit since the pandemic this has not been kept up to date, and can be recommenced if agreed. Members may wish to review the attendance, coverage and progress in respect of covering the whole County at each Standards meeting rather than ad hoc; they may wish to focus on particular localities in their area, or alternatively attend as observer outside of their immediate local area. Members may wish to align attendance with the information provided in respect of Public Services' Ombudsman complaints; or may have other suggestions on approach.

Appendix 2 is the list of Town, City and Community Councils to assist together with a suggested script.

Appendix 3 is a draft feedback form for discussion.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

A fully functioning and representative Standards Committee which upholds the high standards expected of members helps underpin the Council's exercise of its democratic functions.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

There are no additional costs associated with this report and there are no implications for other services as a result of this report.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

A Well Being Impact Assessment is not required.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

No other consultations are considered required.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

Not required.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

There are no identified risks.

11. Power to make the decision

The Local Government Act 2000; the Standards Committee (Wales) Regulations 2001 and the Standards Committee (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006.