

MEETING	Standards Committee
DATE	19 February 2024
TITLE	The Local Government And Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (“The Act”) Duties of Political Group Leaders and the Standards Committee
AUTHOR	Iwan Evans – Monitoring Officer

1. Background

The Act places two main duties on Political Group Leaders (“Leaders”) in relation to the conduct standards of group Members through Section 62. The duties are:

- To take reasonable steps to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members of their group.
- Co-operate with the Standards Committee as it exercises its functions.

In addition, the functions of the Standards Committee are extended to include:

- Monitor Leaders’ compliance with the duty.
- Advise, train or arrange to train Leaders on duty.

The new duty has now come into force since May 2022 which places a positive requirement on Leaders to take positive action to promote and maintain behaviour. This will involve collaboration between the Standards Committee and the Leaders. This can be a positive step to support members' standards of conduct and to resolve issues early.

A Protocol was adopted by the Committee in November 2022

[Agenda for Standards Committee on Monday, 21st November, 2022, 10.30 am \(llyw.cymru\)](#)

2. Standards Committee Responsibilities

The statutory changes also impose a requirement on the Standards Committee to monitor compliance and the duty as set out above and report on this as part of the annual report. To facilitate this and ensure a balanced and fair process we therefore set out to establish criteria for measuring compliance . Nationally prepared suggestions were used as a starting point. These were reviewed at a briefing meeting between Committee members and Leaders of the Political Groups. The criteria recommended is appended in Appendix 1 together with the form of report in Appendix 2.

Recommendation

To Approve the criteria for monitoring and reporting, Annex 1 together with the report form template (Appendix 2)