

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

Standards Committee 25 October 2023

REPORT BY: Head of Legal and Monitoring Officer

SUBJECT: Observing County Council meetings by Standards Committee members

REPORT FOR: Information / Decision

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The Committee is asked to consider the reports on observing County Council meetings by Standards Committee members.

2. Background

2.1 The Committee has agreed to create a rota of independent members to observe County Council meetings in respect of standards and conduct by County councillors at these meetings. A reporting form has been developed on which observations can be recorded and the Committee will review the content of this form on an ongoing basis.

2.2 Observation reports will be considered at the next available Standards Committee. However, any major concerns regarding standards and conduct will be discussed with the Standards Chair, Vice Chair and Monitoring Officer. Any action taken by the Monitoring Officer will be reported to the Standards Committee as appropriate.

3 Observation reports

3.1 Standards Committee members have observed the Council meetings held on 20 July and 5 October 2023. The observation reports are attached as Appendix 1 and 2.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
1. To note the report 2. To consider any actions.	To observe County Council meetings in respect of standards and conduct as part of its work programme.

Relevant Policy (ies):	
Within Policy:	Y
Within Budget:	Y

Relevant Local Member(s):	N/A
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Person(s) To Implement Decision:	Clive Pinney
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	

Contact Officer Name:	Tel:	Fax:	Email:
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**STANDARDS COMMITTEE
FEEDBACK ON OBSERVATIONS OF COUNTY COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Meeting:	County Council
Date:	20 July 2023 (first 2 hours)
Format of meeting	Hybrid [online and in County Hall]
Independent member observing:	Stephan Hays

Please provide feedback on the following issues relating to standards and conduct.

Declarations of interest made at the start of the meeting:

- Numbers made and type – personal or prejudicial
- If prejudicial interests made did the councillor leave the room/virtual meeting

None. Monitoring Officer [MO] mentioned that there would be concerning expenses.

At the start of a brief discussion of Councillor's remuneration package as all members have an interest. MO handed around a form for members to sign.

Declarations made during the meeting when they come to light:

- Numbers made and type – personal or prejudicial
- If prejudicial interests made did the councillor leave the room/virtual meeting

None

Dispensations:

- Were any dispensations relied on?
- State which dispensation

None

Code of Conduct, Standards and Ethic issues: Selflessness / Honesty / Integrity and Propriety / Duty to Uphold the Law / Stewardship / Objectivity and Decision-making / Equality and Respect / Openness / Accountability / Leadership
Comment on any issues observed during the meeting

None. All conducted themselves properly.

Other general observations:

Nothing of direct concern to the Standards Committee.

There was a technical hitch at the start which delayed the commencement by 10mins.

There was another technical matter when the translator started and her translation clashed with the speaker's audio. This was sorted within 5 mins.

There were some protestors in the chamber but they conducted themselves with decorum.

This feedback will be considered at the next Standards Committee. However, any major concerns should be discussed with the Standards Committee Chair, Vice Chair and Monitoring Officer. Any action taken by the Monitoring Officer will be reported to the Standards Committee, as appropriate.

Email the completed form to: Carol Johnson, Democratic Services Officer

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE
FEEDBACK ON OBSERVATIONS OF COUNTY COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Meeting:	County Council
Date:	5 th October 23
Format of meeting	Hybrid [online and in County Hall]
Independent member observing:	Claire Moore

Please provide feedback on the following issues relating to standards and conduct.

Declarations of interest made at the start of the meeting:

- Numbers made and type – personal or prejudicial
- If prejudicial interests made did the councillor leave the room/virtual meeting

One member declared an interest in the YFC item as current president of a YFC and involved with Brecknockshire – The Chair of Council clarified that no formal business was part of this agenda item, and it was just a presentation.

Members were advised that if they were unsure during the meeting then to raise a hand and ask monitoring officer for advice.

Declarations made during the meeting when they come to light:

- Numbers made and type – personal or prejudicial
- If prejudicial interests made did the councillor leave the room/virtual meeting

None

Dispensations:

- Were any dispensations relied on?
- State which dispensation

None

Code of Conduct, Standards and Ethic issues: Selflessness / Honesty / Integrity and Propriety / Duty to Uphold the Law / Stewardship / Objectivity and Decision-making / Equality and Respect / Openness / Accountability / Leadership

Comment on any issues observed during the meeting:

No issues observed.

Other general observations:

Did hear the “beep” of mobile phones throughout the live webcast – could all be reminded to turn phones off at the start of the meeting?

Can all members who are attending the meeting remotely be reminded to put their screens/lights on in order to show participation in the debates.

Good chairing skills throughout – clear leadership and communication. Debates were handled well. There was an appropriate level of discussion of items on the agenda and the Chair ensured that actions were agreed to move some specific matters forward.

Use of the Welsh language throughout the meeting was very positive.

This feedback will be considered at the next Standards Committee. However, any major concerns should be discussed with the Standards Committee Chair, Vice Chair and Monitoring Officer. Any action taken by the Monitoring Officer will be reported to the Standards Committee, as appropriate.

Email the completed form to: Carol Johnson, Democratic Services Officer
carol.johnson@powys.gov.uk