

## **Standards Committee meeting with Group Leaders to discuss the Group Leaders duties 1 May and 9 May 2024**

The following is a summary of the main points from the above. The Standards Committee welcomed the opportunity to meet with the Group Leaders. All meetings were held online.

### **Issues highlighted by the Standards Committee as an outcome of the meetings:**

A guide for group leaders should be developed to assist them in their roles and this would support new group leaders. This would also support leaders of independent groups which do not have the political structures to support them.

Groups should consider adopting a policy regarding the need to adhere to the Code of Conduct.

There is a need to promote the role of the Standards Committee, either by presentation to Full Council, a member development session or information sheet [FAQ].

The content of the form should be reviewed and a guide, indicating the issues and information the Standards Committee is requiring, should be developed to assist group leaders in completing the form. The form should not only refer to compliance with the group leaders' new duties but also refer to the wellbeing and pastoral care of members.

When the forms are returned by Group Leaders, officers should ask them to provide examples of what they have done in respect of the issues highlighted on the form, where none are given. This would assist the Committee in its meeting with Group Leaders.

A review of the Local Resolution process should be undertaken.

Group Leaders should be advised that they can have the support of a Group member at the meeting, if they do not have a Chief Whip within their Group.

The time slots for the meetings with Group Leaders should be increased from 20 to 30 minutes each.

Although outside the remit of the Committee, the support to councillors to manage contact with the public and how to manage possible intimidation, should be provided to councillors. It was noted that the Welsh Local Government and Local Government Association has produced guides. See <https://www.wlga.wales/councillors-guide-to-handling-intimidation>