

Meeting of:	Standards Committee
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 26 November 2020
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	No Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Report Title:	Standards Conference Wales: October 2020
Purpose of Report:	To provide Members with an update in respect of the Annual Standards Conference
Report Owner:	Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Responsible Officer:	Karen Bowen, Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	The report does not involve consultation with any other parties
Policy Framework:	The report does not affect the Council's policy framework and budget
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To advise Members of the Standards Committee that an Annual Standards Conference will not be held in 2020 and that the next scheduled Conference will take place in October 2021. 	

Recommendation

1. That the Standards Committee note that an Annual Standards Conference will not be held in 2020, with the next conference to be scheduled for October 2021.

Reason for Recommendation

1. To apprise Members of the position with regard to arrangements for the Standards Conference.

1. Background

- 1.1 A Standards Conference is usually held on an annual basis. The Conference is aimed at Councillors, Officers and Independent Members involved in promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct within authorities in Wales and provides an opportunity to network and discuss issues of common interest and best practice.
- 1.1 Invitations are usually extended each year for up to four delegates from the Ethics and Standards Committee of each Local Authority in Wales, the Fire Authorities in Wales and the Welsh National Parks to attend

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 At a recent Monitoring Officers' meeting held virtually it was agreed that a Standards Conference would not be held in 2020 due to the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic.
- 2.2 At the same meeting it was subsequently further agreed that the next Annual Conference would be held in October 2021 and undertaken virtually.
- 2.3 The Monitoring Officer will inform all Members of the Standards Committee as soon as a date and the invitation details of a Conference in October 2021 are received.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1 The role of the Standards Committee is to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Councillors, Co-opted Members and Church and Parent Governor Representatives.

4. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 4.1** None as a direct result of this report other than Members are remunerated for attendance at meetings under the Allowance Scheme agreed by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales and the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Constitution.

Employment

- 4.2** The Council has a statutory duty to establish and maintain a Standards Committee as defined by legislation as set out in the Standards Committee Rules and Regulations 2001 and the Standards Committee (Wales) Amendment Regulations 2006.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 4.3** The Council has a statutory duty to establish and maintain a Standards Committee as defined by legislation as set out in the Standards Committee Rules and Regulations 2001 and the Standards Committee (Wales) Amendment Regulations 2006.

5. Background Papers

None.