
**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND LEGAL
SERVICES AND MONITORING OFFICER**

NATIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE FORUM

Reason for this Report

1. To invite the Committee to consider proposals in relation to the establishment of a National Standards Committee Forum and its terms of reference.

Background

2. An independent review of the ethical standards framework for Wales, commissioned by the Welsh Government, was carried out between April and July 2021, to assess whether the Ethical Standards Framework established under Part 3 of the Local Government Act 2000 remains fit for purpose. The final report on the Independent Review of the Ethical Standards Framework in Wales ('the Independent Review Report') was published on 14th October 2021: [Local Government Ethical Standards framework: review | GOV.WALES](#)
3. The Standards and Ethics Committee considered the Independent Review Report at its meeting on 9th February 2022.

Issues

4. The Independent Review Report concluded that the current arrangements made under the Ethical Standards Framework remain fit for purpose. However, a number of changes were recommended, including a recommendation that there should be an All-Wales Forum for Independent Chairs of Standards Committees to encourage consistency of approach and the adoption of best practice across Wales (Independent Review Report, paragraph 5.5.4).
5. Discussions have taken place between the Monitoring Officers' Group and the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and draft terms of reference for a National Standards Committee Forum have been prepared, which are attached as **Appendix A** for the Committee's information.
6. It is understood that the Chair of each Standards Committee will be invited to the Forum's first meeting and the terms of reference will be on the meeting

agenda for approval. Any comments the Committee may wish to make in relation to the proposed terms of reference may be raised by the Chair at the Forum meeting.

Legal Implications

7. The proposed Forum will not have formal decision making powers, meaning that any formal decisions required will need approval by each individual Standards Committee.

Financial Implications

8. The proposal is for the Committee Chairperson to be invited to attend the National Standards Committee Forum for which remuneration would be payable in accordance with the Members' Schedule of Remuneration and contained within the allocated budget.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is recommended to note the information set out in the report and **Appendix A** and provide any appropriate comments.

Davina Fiore

Director of Governance and Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

13th October 2022

APPENDICES

Appendix A National Standards Committee Forum, Terms of Reference, draft

Background papers

Independent Review of the Ethical Standards Framework in Wales, Richard Penn, July 2021

[Framework \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales/framework)

Standards and Ethics Committee report, Review of the Ethical Framework, 9th February 2022 [CITY](#)

[AND COUNTY OF CARDIFF \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://moderngov.co.uk)

Members' Schedule of Remuneration 2022/23: [Members' Allowances Scheme \(cardiff.gov.uk\)](#)