

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Monday, 4 July 2022
Report Subject	All Wales Standards Conference 2022 Report Back
Report Author	Chief Officer (Governance)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The All Wales Standards Conference was held virtually on 9 February 2022. It was organised by the Monitoring Officers in North Wales. Given the significance of the Penn Review of the Ethical Regime, the Conference focussed exclusively on that topic.

Richard Penn was the main speaker, and there were speakers from Welsh Government, the Public Services Ombudsman's Office and One Voice Wales. Delegates came from all authorities in Wales including the Fire Authorities and National Parks.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That the report on the conference is welcomed and that the Committee agrees to incorporate work arising from the Penn Review of the Ethical Regime into its work programme as it arises
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	REPORT BACK FROM THE ALL WALES STANDARDS CONFERENCE
1.01	Every two years Monitoring Officers from the North, Mid and South regions take it in turns to arrange and host a conference for all the Standards Committees. The most recent conference (delayed due to Covid) was arranged by the Monitoring Officers in North Wales and took place in February via Zoom. It was attended by Standards Committee members and Monitoring Officers (or their deputies) from all the principal Councils,

	the National Park Authorities and the Fire & Rescue Authorities. In addition the President of the Adjudication Panel For Wales (APW), the current and previous Public Services Ombudsman for Wales were also present.
1.02	Due to the significance of the Penn Review of the Ethical Regime the conference focussed solely on this topic. Richard Penn was the key note speaker and explained his report and the rationale for his findings, taking questions afterwards. Welsh Government explained that it would consult widely on whether to legislate for any of the recommendations in the report. In the afternoon a panel consisting of the PSOW, OVW and a Standards Committee chair gave their perspectives on the report and proposals for action.
1.03	It is fair to say that not all the recommendations within the report were accepted although there is a measure of consensus around such recommendations as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The need for a National Standards Forum 2) Minor updates to the code and changes to the APW's powers of sanction 3) The need for training on the Code of Conduct to be mandatory.
1.04	The Chair and Vice Chair of this Committee attended and can give verbal feedback on their thoughts about the conference.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	None directly arising from this report

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Not required

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	None directly arising from this report

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – All Wales Standards Conference Programme Appendix 2 – Report on the Penn Review of the Ethical Regime Appendix 3 – Dr Einir Young Presentation Appendix 4 – One Voice Wales Presentation Appendix 5 – Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Presentation Appendix 6 – Welsh Government Presentation

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Contact Officer: Gareth Owens, Chief Officer (Governance) Telephone: 01352 702344 E-mail: gareth.legal@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	<p>Adjudication Panel for Wales - the panel of lay people and lawyers from whom a case tribunal will be drawn to determine whether the Code of Conduct has been breached.</p> <p>Public Services Ombudsman for Wales - (as per standard glossary)</p> <p>Penn Review of the Ethical Regime - a review commissioned by Welsh Government and conducted by Richard Penn looking into the Code of Conduct, how it is enforced, how training is undertaken and all other mechanisms to ensure high standards of ethical behaviour.</p>