

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS (WALES) ACT 2021

## DISCUSSION PAPER

### DUTIES ON POLITICAL GROUP LEADERS

1. A duty to take reasonable steps to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by the members of their group

- What does the committee consider to be 'reasonable steps'?
- Should the committee identify what it feels group leaders should be doing specifically to meet this duty and communicate those expectations to group leaders in writing?
- To what extent do the committee feel group leaders should be held to account for the conduct of their group members?

2. A duty on the leaders of political groups to co-operate with the standards committee in the exercise of that committee's functions

- What does the committee consider to be sufficient 'co-operation' to satisfy this duty? Does this extend to following recommendations made by the committee?
- Should the committee identify what it feels group leaders should be doing specifically to meet this duty and communicate those expectations to group leaders in writing?

### **The Act then goes on to place two duties on the Committee**

1. Monitoring compliance by group leaders with the above duties and advising and training them in respect of their new duties

- How will the committee monitor compliance by group leaders?
- Will it seek to adopt meaningful performance indicators against which their performance can be measured?
- If yes, what indicators do the committee wish to adopt?
- How will it advise/train them?

2. A duty to include in its annual report to Full Council an assessment of the extent to which political group leaders have complied with their duties under the Act
  - What approach will the committee want to take in respect of this. Will it address group leaders compliance in a general, collective way, or address each individuals compliance separately?
  - Will the committee want to undertake interim assessments of compliance during the year and communicate any conclusions to the group leaders.
  - Will group leaders be given an opportunity to comment upon/respond to any assessment before it is published.