

## CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

Standards Community Sub- Committee  
5<sup>th</sup> September 2012

REPORT BY: Strategic Director – Law and Governance

SUBJECT: Matters appertaining to Standards Issues

REPORT FOR: Decision, Information and Discussion

**A. Referral of Councillors to Public Services Ombudsman****A1. Town and Community Councillor Referrals**

The Ombudsman has made the following decision whether to investigate that complaints reported to the last meeting of the committee:

7/11/TCC – to discontinue the investigation and conclude that no further action is necessary

3/12/TCC – not to investigate

4/12/TCC – not to investigate

5/12/TCC – not to investigate

6/12/TCC – not to investigate

7/12/TCC – not to investigate

8/12/TCC – not to investigate

Since the last meeting the Ombudsman has notified the Council of eight further complaints and their current position are outlined below:

09/12/TCC – not to investigate

10/12/TCC} – not to investigate

11/12/TCC}

12/12/TCC – not to investigate

13/12/TCC – not to investigate

14/12/TCC}

15/12/TCC} – awaiting decision on whether to investigate

16/12/TCC}

**B. Dispensations****B1. Applications - Town and Community Councillors**

Applications for dispensation have been received from the following Town and Community Councillors:

#### B1.1 Abermule with Llandyssil Community Council

An application for dispensation has been submitted by the Clerk following discussion with Officers in relation to two Charities with which the Community council is involved, namely

- (a) The Millfield Amenity Land Trust; and
- (b) The Abermule Community Centre.

A copy of the application is attached at **Appendix 1**.

Without going into detail concerning this application it has raised what is considered to be a situation which is likely to be confronted by most, if not the majority, of Town and Community Council's. That is to say the local Council is often either itself the trustee of a local charity or has the power to appoint trustees. There will also be occasions where Town and Community Councillors will be Charity Trustees on local charities albeit not having been appointed by their Council.

The Sub-Committee is invited to consider whether given the likely scale of such interests generally across Town and Community Councils it may be appropriate to consider granting a blanket dispensation in this connection.

If the Sub-Committee are minded to consider granting a blanket dispensation they will need to decide on whether to impose any limitation or condition as to

- (a) the extent of the Dispensation eg will it apply to both speaking and voting etc; and
- (b) the extent of the Council business involved eg will it apply to all business or exclude some such as planning applications or other regulatory matters.

#### B1.2 Presteigne Town Council

An application for dispensation has been received from Town Councillor Tennant-Eyles. A copy of the application and comments and observations thereon are attached at **Appendix 2**.

#### B1.3 Disserth and Trecoed Community Council

Applications for dispensation have been received from Community Councillors L. Davies, P. Hales, J. Hamer and L. Myhill. Copies of the applications and comments and observations thereon are attached at **Appendix 3**.

#### B1.4 Crickhowell Town Council

An application for dispensation has been received from Town Councillor Jackson. A copy of the application and comments and observations thereon are attached at **Appendix 4**.

## B1.5 Rhayader Town Council

Applications for dispensation have been received from Town Councillors Edward Narborough, Gillian Williams and Lee Price. A copy of the applications and comments and observations thereon are attached at **Appendix 5**.

An application has been received from Town Councillor Morgan Lloyd. A copy of the application and comments and observations thereon are attached at **Appendix 6**.

## B2 Blanket Dispensations

### B2.1 Windfarms/Renewable Energy

At the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2012 a blanket dispensation for County Councillors regarding Windfarms/Renewable Energy was agreed (see minutes from the Standards Committee 4<sup>th</sup> July 2012).

The Standards Community Sub-Committee are invited to consider granting a similar dispensation for Town and Community Councillors.

### B2.2 School Modernisation and School Transport Review

At the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2012 a blanket dispensation for County Councillors regarding School Modernisation and School Transport was agreed (see minutes from the Standards Committee 4<sup>th</sup> July 2012).

The Standards Community Sub-Committee are invited to consider granting a similar dispensation for Town and Community Councillors.

## C Dispensation Forms

If a Town or Community Council Member declares an interest it is necessary for that Member to complete a written form which must be made available for public inspection. These forms have in the past been circulated by the Monitoring Officer. It is suggested that these forms be circulated again to all Town and Community Councils in the County.

## D Town and Community Council Training

Training for Town and Community Councils were undertaken during July 2012. Attendance at these training sessions was as follows:

Location	Date	Numbers attending	% of Town and Community Councils represented
Welshpool	11 <sup>th</sup> July 2012	52	38%
Llandrindod Wells	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2012	42	48%
Brecon	18 <sup>th</sup> July 2012	35	53%

## E. Meeting Dates.

D1. To note dates of future meetings as follows:

5 December 2012

All meetings to commence at 10.00am with the option of training available afterwards.

Contact Officer Name:	Tel:	Fax:	Email:
<i>Clarence Meredith, Strategic Director – Law and Governance.</i>	<i>01597 826395</i>	<i>01597 826220</i>	<a href="mailto:clarence.meredith@powys.gov.uk">clarence.meredith@powys.gov.uk</a>