

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

**Standards Community Sub- Committee
9th April 2014**

REPORT BY: Solicitor to the Council

SUBJECT: Matters relating to Standards Issues

REPORT FOR: Decision, Information and Discussion

A. Referral of Councillors to Public Services Ombudsman

A1. Town and Community Councillor Referrals

Since the last meeting the Ombudsman has advised that:

18/12/TCC – The Adjudication Panel has determined this case by way of written representation. The case related to Nathan Casey former Councillor of Llandrindod Town Council. The decision of the Adjudication Panel was to disqualify Mr N. Casey for a period of 3 years.

The Ombudsman has notified the Council of the following new cases:

01/14/TCC – deciding whether or not to investigate
02/14/TCC – deciding whether or not to investigate
03/14/TCC – deciding whether or not to investigate

B. Dispensations

B1. Applications - Town and Community Councillors

No applications for dispensation have been received from Town and Community Councillors.

C. Appointment of Independent (Lay) Member of Standards Community Sub-Committee.

The process for appointing an Independent (Lay) Member to replace Independent Member Mrs Harris is ongoing.

The Appointment Panel sat on 6th March 2014 and shortlisted the 46 eligible applicants. Six applicants were invited to interview on 13th March 2014. The Panel have made a recommendation for ratification at Full Council on 30th April 2014. The new Independent (Lay) Member will start on 22nd June 2014.

D. Ombudsman's Case Book

The Ombudsman published the first of six monthly case books on Code of Conduct in October 2013. Standards Committee Members have asked for further detail regarding the background to the decisions reported in the Casebook.

The reports into a selection of the cases included in the casebook have been downloaded from either the Adjudication Panel for Wales' website or the websites of Local Authority Standards Committees.

Reports into the following cases are attached with the papers for the Powys County Council Standards Committee 9th April 2014.

1. Former County Councillor David Evans
Ceredigion County Council
Case heard by: Adjudication Panel
Outcome: Disqualification 3 months

2. County Councillor P Heeson
Flintshire Council
Case heard by: Adjudication Panel
Outcome: Disqualification 2 ½ years

3. Town Councillor Ms A O'Grady
Llandudno Town Council
Case heard by: Conwy County Council Standards Committee
Outcome: Disqualification 6 months

4. Town Councillor D J Thomas
Gorseinon Town Council
Case heard by: City and County of Swansea Council Standards Committee

E. Meeting Dates.

E.1. To note dates of future meetings as follows:

25th June 2014
3rd September 2014
3rd December 2014

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

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