

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

**Standards Committee
5th October 2016**

REPORT BY: Solicitor to the Council

SUBJECT: Standards Issues

REPORT FOR: Decision, Information and Discussion

A. General Standards Issues for County Councillors and Co-opted Members

A1 Code of Conduct Training

It was reported to the last meeting that arrangements were made for the remaining four Members to receive this refresher training by means of the Members providing written responses to 3 or 4 questions considered at the refresher training sessions. The scenarios were sent to the four Members. Only one Member had attempted the scenarios but seems unclear as to what response is required. The other 3 Members have not responded.

At the last meeting the Committee agreed that the Chair write to those four members (County Councillors G.M. Jones, G.D. Price, W.D. Powell and M.J. Dorrance) seeking a response as to why they had not completed this training. A verbal update of responses received will be provided at the meeting.

B. Referral of Councillors to Public Services Ombudsman

B1. County Councillor Referrals

B1.1 The current position regarding existing matters with the Ombudsman is as follows:

6/15/CC	Referred to the Standards Committee
8/15/CC	Ombudsman investigating
9/15//CC	Ombudsman investigating
04/16/CC	Ombudsman investigating
07/16/CC	Ombudsman investigating

Since the last meeting the following referrals have been received and the current position is shown:

09/CC/2016	Ombudsman investigating
10/CC/2016	Ombudsman investigating
11/CC/2016	Not investigating
12/CC/2016	Not investigating
13/CC/2016	Not investigating

14/CC/2016 Not investigating
15/CC/2016 Ombudsman investigating
16/CC/2016 Ombudsman investigating
17/CC/2106 Ombudsman investigating
18/CC/2016 Not investigating

C. Other Standards Issues

None.

D Dispensations

D1. Applications - County Councillors

No applications for dispensation have been received from County Councillors.

E. Attendance

E.1 Member attendance

At the last meeting of Standards Committee the following resolution was made:

Resolved to invite Cllr Harris to provide in writing a full explanation for each absence for the period 1st December 2015 to 10th June 2016.

Cllr Harris has provided a response to the Chair which will be reported to the meeting.

F Late payment of expenses

Claims for payment of expenses have been submitted by the following Members:

Councillor David Jones – a claim for mileage expenses submitted on 11th August 2016 for April and May 2016.

Details will be provided at the meeting and the Member has been invited to attend.

G Ombudsman's Casebook

The Ombudsman has published Code of Conduct Casebooks for the following periods:

- July 2015 – September 2015
- September 2015 – December 2015
- January 2016 – March 2016
- April 2016 – June 2016

Copies of the Casebooks can be accessed from the website of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales at:

<http://www.ombudsman-wales.org.uk/en/publications/The-Code-of-Conduct-Casebook.aspx>

H. Meeting Dates

To note dates of future meetings as follows:

Wednesday 15th February 2017

Wednesday 28th June 2017

Wednesday 4th October 2017

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

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