

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

**Standards Committee
4th October 2017**

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

Code of Conduct training was held on the 16th May 2017. Four County Councillors and one Independent Member were unable to attend the training (one County Councillor was on other Council business). Members have been offered 5 dates in late October, early November to complete this training. A further update will be provided at the next 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:

04/CC/2016 Ombudsman not investigating
02/CC/2017 Ombudsman originally decided not to investigate – complainant submitted a request for a review of that decision and the Ombudsman has now decided to investigate.
04/CC/2017 Relating to eight Councillors – Ombudsman not investigating

C Dispensations

C1 Applications - County Councillors

No applications for dispensation have been received from County Councillors.

D Ombudsman's Casebook

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

- April 2017 – June 2017

A copy of this Casebook is attached at **Appendix A.**

Back 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>

E Annual Letter from the Ombudsman

The Annual Letter from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales was received on 1st September 2017. A copy of this letter is attached at **Appendix B**.

F Appointment of Independent Member

The process for appointing an Independent Member has commenced. The post has been advertised in the Brecon and Radnor and the County Times and has also been placed on the front page of the Powys County Council website. To date there have been 31 expressions of interest and 5 applications. The closing date for submitting applications is the 6th October 2017. Shortlisting will take place if necessary on the 23rd October 2017 with Interviews taking place on the 8th November 2017.

The Interview Panel has been agreed and will comprise of the following members:

Mrs S Thompson – High Sheriff
Mrs H Rhydderch-Roberts – Chair of Standards Committee
Mrs J Evans – Independent Member Standards Committee
Councillor S Lewis – County Councillor Member Standards Committee
Community Councillor Hugh Patrick – Community Councillor Member Standards Committee.

The appointment will be made at the meeting of Powys County Council on the 25th January 2018. The first meeting of the Standards Committee thereafter will be the 7th February 2018.

G. Appointment of Town and Community Council Representatives to the Standards Community Sub-Committee.

G1 The Town and Community Council elections in May 2017 brought to a close the term of office for Town and Community Councillors sitting on the Standards Community Sub-Committee. A postal election (nominations followed by ballot) was held to elect three Town and Community Councillors one each to represent Brecknockshire, Montgomeryshire and Radnorshire for the new term of office.

G2 Accordingly the successful candidates are: -

Brecknockshire	Hugh Patrick (Ystradfellte CC)
Montgomeryshire	Joy Shearer (Tregynon CC)
Radnorshire	Margaret Morris (Glasbury CC)

- G3 The function of making the formal appointments to the Sub-Committee has been delegated to the Standards Committee and accordingly the Committee is requested to formally appoint the new Sub-Committee to comprise the 5 Independent Members; the 3 Community Councillors referred to above and one of the County Councillors sitting on the main Committee.
- G4 The term of office to be served by those appointed to the Sub-Committee will be the maximum term permitted by Regulations. Currently this is 5 years until May 2022.

RECOMMENDED :	
<p>1. That the Standards Community Sub-Committee comprise the undermentioned 9 Members :-</p> <p>(i) All 5 Independent (Lay) Members of the main Standards Committee.</p> <p>(ii) a County Councillor to be nominated.</p> <p>(iii) Town Councillor Hugh Patrick (Ystradfellte Community Council) – elected by the Town and Community Councils in Brecknockshire.</p> <p>(iv) Community Councillor Joy Shearer (Tregynon Community Council) – elected by the Town and Community Councils in Montgomeryshire.</p> <p>(v) Town Councillor Margaret Morris (Glasbury Community Council) – elected by the Town and Community Councils in Radnorshire.</p> <p>2. That the terms of office of the 5 Independent (Lay) Members be for the remainder of their terms of office as Independent Members on the main Standards Committee.</p> <p>3. That the terms of office of the County Councillor and Town and Community Councillors be for the maximum term permitted by the existing regulations or by any amending regulations (currently a maximum of five years) or until they</p>	<p>To constitute the Standards Community Sub-Committee.</p>

cease to be Councillors or resign whichever shall first occur.	
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H. Meeting Dates

To note dates of future meetings as follows:

Wednesday 7th February 2018

Wednesday 27th June 2018

Wednesday 3rd October 2018

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