

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

**Standards Committee
13 October 2021**

REPORT BY: Head of Legal and Democratic Services

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

One Member is still required to complete the Mid-term mandatory Code of Conduct training provided via Teams on 2 December 2020. The session was recorded and has been sent to the Member on numerous occasions.

B. Referral of Councillors to Public Services Ombudsman

B1 County Councillor Referrals

The current position regarding matters with the Ombudsman is as follows:

02/CC/2020 Ombudsman investigating

01/CC/2021 Ombudsman deciding whether or not to investigate

02/CC/2021 Ombudsman not investigating

03/CC/2021 Ombudsman deciding whether or not to investigate

04/CC/2021 Ombudsman investigating

C. Dispensations

C1 Applications - County Councillors

An application for dispensation was received from County Councillor Elwyn Vaughan and initially discussed at the last meeting. A draft dispensation report will follow.

D. Late Payment of Expenses

There are no late claims for expenses.

E. Standards Committee – changes to Constitution

The Local Government and Elections Act (Wales) 2021 requires that Standards Committee presents an annual report to Council. The Constitution Section 8: Standards Committee will be amended as details in Appendix 1.

F. Ombudsman's Casebook

There are no new Code of Conduct Casebooks.

Back copies of the casebooks can be accessed from the website of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales at: [Casebooks](#)

G. The North Wales Standards Committee Forum

A meeting of the above was held on 24 June 2021. The main topic for discussion was the review of the Ethical Framework [including the code of conduct] which has been commissioned by the Welsh Government. The Chair and Head of Legal and Democratic Services will provide a verbal report.

H. Standards Conference Wales

The Wales Standards Conference did not take place in October in 2020 due to the pandemic and will hopefully now take place in October 2021. Further details will be provided as soon as they are available.

J. Correspondence - None

K. Meeting dates

To note the 2022 meeting dates:

9 February 1400hrs

9 September 0930hrs – induction training [once the community council appointments have been made to the Community sub-committee]

15 September 1400hrs

5 December 1400hrs

Contact Officer Name:	Tel:	Fax:	Email:
Clive Pinney – Head of Legal & Democratic Services	01597 826746	01597 826220	clive.pinney@powys.gov.uk

Role and Function

8.8 The Standards Committee will have the following roles and functions:

- 8.8.1 promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Members (including church and parent governor representatives);
- 8.8.2 assisting Members (including church and parent governor representatives) to observe the Members' Code of Conduct;
- 8.8.3 advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct;
- 8.8.4 monitoring the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct;
- 8.8.5 advising on training or arranging to train Councillors, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct;
- 8.8.6 granting dispensations to councillors, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct;
- 8.8.7 dealing with any reports from a case tribunal or interim case tribunal, and any report from the Monitoring Officer on any matter referred to that officer by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.
- 8.8.8 overseeing the Council's whistle-blowing regime;
- 8.8.9 providing advice to individual Councillors on such issues as the treatment of personal interest and on conduct matters generally;
- 8.8.10 determining appropriate action on matters referred to it by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.
- 8.8.11 overseeing the Register of Interest of Members, Co-opted members and Church and Parent Governor Representatives and Officers.
- 8.8.12 overseeing the Council's rules and protocols on accountability of members.
- 8.8.13 overseeing the attendance of Members and Co-opted Members at relevant meetings;
- 8.8.14 monitor the training of Members serving on Member Bodies.
- 8.8.15 [As soon as reasonably practicable after the end of each financial year, the Standards Committee will make an annual report to Full Council setting out the following:](#)
 - (a) [how the Committee's and Sub-Committee's functions have been discharged](#)
 - (b) [what has been done to discharge the general and specific functions set out in Rules 8.8.1 to 8.8.5 above;](#)
 - (c) [reports and recommendations made or referred to the Committee or Sub-Committee by the Ombudsman;](#)
 - (d) [action taken by the Committee or Sub-Committee following its consideration of such reports and recommendations;](#)
 - (e) [notices given to the Committee or Sub-Committee by the Adjudication Panel for Wales.](#)

- (f) the extent to which leaders of political groups on the council have complied with their duties to promote and maintain high standards of conduct during the financial year.
- (g) such other matters as the Committee may wish to draw to the attention of Full Council in relation to the Standards Committee's functions.