

**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.****Standards Committee  
1<sup>st</sup> December 2010****REPORT BY: Strategic Director – Law and Governance****SUBJECT: Matters appertaining to Standards Issues**

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**REPORT FOR: Decision, Information and Discussion**

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**A. General Training for Members****A1. Training of County Council Members – Member Development Strategy/Programme**

**A1.1** Copies of notes of the last meeting of the Member Development Working Group held on the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2010 are attached to this report as **Appendix 1** for information.

**B. Referral of Councillors to Public Services Ombudsman****B1. County Councillor Referrals**

**B1.1** The Ombudsman is still investigating the complaint made against two Members reported to the previous Standards Committee.

**C. Other Standards Issues****C1.1 Meeting with Brecon Beacons National Park Standards Committee**

The Brecon Beacons National Park Standards Committee have been invited to attend a joint meeting to discuss matters of mutual concern. This meeting will be held on the afternoon of the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010.

**D1. Placing the Register on the Council's public website**

**D1.1** The register of Members interests was published on the Council's website on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

**E. Meetings of Chairs and Vice Chairs of Scrutiny, Audit and Standards Committees**

**E1.** Notes of the meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> October 2010 are attached as **Appendix 2**.

## **F. Dispensations**

### **F1. Applications - County Councillors**

**F1.1** No applications for dispensation have been received.

### **F2. Blanket Dispensations – School Modernisation.**

A letter has been sent to the Chairs of Council, the Board, the Shires, Principal Scrutiny Committee, People Scrutiny Committee and Corporate Governance Scrutiny Committee outlining the exact wording of the dispensation relating to School Modernisation. A copy of the letter is attached at **Appendix 3**.

Three Members have yet to return their forms registering interests relating to School Modernisation despite reminders. Until forms are returned these three members are ineligible to rely on the dispensation relating to School Modernisation.

During the initial enquiry twelve members ticked that they were close friends with or related to someone employed at a school. On the detailed forms nine members outlined the relationship and three members did not complete this section of the form.

## **G. Raising the profile of the Standards Committee/Sub-Committee**

### **G1. Standards in Local Government**

A draft copy of the document Standards in Local Government is attached at **Appendix 4** Officers will work with the communications department to create an illustrated leaflet which will be available on the internet.

## **H. Standards Conference**

A report from Cllr Hodges on the Standards Conference in Cardiff is attached at **Appendix 5**.

Further to the last Standards Conference, officers have been making enquiries regarding the possibility of Powys hosting the next Standards Conference in 2011. Following these preliminary enquiries it is considered that Powys is in a position to offer to host the 2011 Standards Conference in Llandrindod Wells. This will be raised at the next meeting of ACSeS on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2010. The Committee's views are sought.

## **I. Member Attendance**

The attendance of Members at main committees for the period 13<sup>th</sup> May 2010 – 31<sup>st</sup> October is attached at **Appendix 6**.

The following Members have recorded attendance below 60%.

County Councillor F. Barker

County Councillor F. Barker has had a period of illness and applied for leave of absence at County Council on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2010 which was granted for the period July 2010 to January 2011. An extract of the minutes of the meeting of County Council on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2010 are attached at **Appendix 7**.

County Councillor D. Meredith

County Councillor D. Meredith attended 47.1% of meetings and has submitted a letter of explanation which is attached at **Appendix 8**.

County Councillor Mrs C. Powell

At County Council on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010 Members were advised that County Councillor Mrs C. Powell would be taking Maternity Leave from August 2010. Councillor Mrs Powell has attendance of 57.1%. An extract from the minutes of the meeting of County Council on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010 is attached at **Appendix 9**.

Member Attendance at Outside Bodies

The attendance of Powys County Council Members at Statutory Outside Bodies was requested and the information provided from the individual organisations is attached at **Appendix 10**.

**J. Meeting Dates.**

**J.1** To note dates of future meetings as follows:

2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2011  
27<sup>th</sup> April, 2011  
29<sup>th</sup> June, 2011  
7<sup>th</sup> September, 2011  
30<sup>th</sup> November, 2011

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

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