

**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.****Standards Community Sub- Committee  
22nd June 2009****REPORT BY: Head of Legal, Scrutiny and Democratic Services****SUBJECT: Matters appertaining to Standards Issues**

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

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**Community Councillor Brian Couzens**

It is with regret that I have to inform the Sub-Committee that Community Councillor Brian Couzens passed away on May, 29<sup>th</sup>. Councillor Couzens was until February of this year a Member of the Sub-Committee when illness forced his resignation. The Vice Chairman and I attended his funeral at St. Edmunds Church, Crickhowell on Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2009.

**A. Members' Code of Conduct****A1 Adoption of the new Model Members' Code of Conduct by Town and Community Councils (Community Sub-Committee Item)**

**A1.1** With regard to the monitoring of the adoption of the Code by Town and Community Councils Members will recall that at the last meeting there were only outstanding matters relating to 2 Town and Community Councils. In the 1 case the outstanding documentation has now been received. In relation to the other case the Chairman has spoken to the local Member who in turn has taken it up with the Community Council in question and it is understood that arrangements are in hand to finalise the process in respect of that Council.

**A2. Training of Town and Community Council Clerks/Councillors**

**A2.1** It is proposed that later in the year a letter be sent to Clerks of all Town and Community Councils in Powys to gauge interest and support in further training sessions being provided by the County Council (in conjunction with possibly One Voice Wales and neighbouring Authorities) and the topics that would be of interest to Members and Clerks of Town and Community Councils.

## **B. General Training for Members**

### **B1. Training of Members of the Standards Committee – Member Development Strategy/Programme**

**B1.1** The Member Development Working Group will, as part of its work, include within the Member Development Strategy and the training programme that emerges from it elements relating to the development and training requirements of Members of the Sub-Committee who are encouraged to submit appropriate suggestions in this connection to the Working Group.

## **C. Referral of Councillors to Public Services Ombudsman**

### **C1. Town and Community Councillor Referrals**

**C1.1** The Ombudsman continues to investigate allegations against three Members of one Community Council.

**C1.2** Since the last meeting one new referral has been made to the Ombudsman who, at this stage, has yet to decide whether or not to investigate the complaint.

## **D. Other Standards Issues**

### **D1. Meetings with Town & Community Councils**

**D1.1** Since the last meeting the Chairman has met with representatives of one Council and an oral update will be given at the meeting.

### **D2 Attendance at Meetings of Town and Community Councils**

**D2.1** The Vice Chair has suggested that consideration be given to Members attending meetings of Town and Community Councils where concerns and issues have been raised and the Sub-Committee is asked to discuss this proposal.

### **D3 Issues raised by a Member of the Public**

**D3.1** Following concerns raised by a member of the public relating to his local Community Council a letter has been sent to the Clerk seeking observations and a response is awaited. An update will be given to the committee at the meeting.

## **F. Dispensations**

### **F1. Applications - Town and Community Councillors**

**F1.1** Applications for dispensations have been received from two Members of Ystradgynlais Town Council in relation to their membership of the Ystradgynlais Minors Welfare and Community Hall Board (a charitable company limited by guarantee). As both Councillors have been

appointed by the Town Council to sit on the Board then by virtue of Paragraph 12 (2) (a) (iii) of the Members' Code of Conduct they are not regarded as having a prejudicial interest in relation to matters (other than regulatory issues) concerning the Welfare and Community Hall. Accordingly they have been advised that they do not need a dispensation as they currently have the right to speak and vote on matters relating to the Welfare and Community Hall.

**G. Membership of the Sub-Committee.**

**G1. Brecknockshire Vacancy.**

**G1.1** One Voice Wales have acknowledged being consulted in relation to the arrangements to fill this vacancy. They have indicated that they would be happy to become more directly involved in this appointment process in the future and would welcome further discussions when felt appropriate.

**G.1.2** The result of the ballot and the appointment of the new Community Council representative for Brecknockshire is dealt with in the report to the main committee.

**G2. Independent (Lay) Member Vacancy.**

**G2.1** The appointment of a new Independent (Lay) Member is detailed in the report to the main Standards committee.

**I. Meeting Dates.**

**I1.** To note dates of future meetings as follows:

28<sup>th</sup> September 2009.  
30<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

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

<b>Recommendation:</b>		<b>Reason for Recommendation:</b>	
<b>Relevant Policy (ies):</b>			
<b>Within Policy:</b>	Yes	<b>Within Budget:</b>	Yes

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