

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

**Standards Community Sub- Committee
5th February 2014**

REPORT BY: Solicitor to the Council

SUBJECT: Matters appertaining to Standards Issues

REPORT FOR: Decision, Information and Discussion

A. Referral of Councillors to Public Services Ombudsman

A1. Town and Community Councillor Referrals

Since the last meeting the Ombudsman has advised that:

18/12/TCC – This case is still with the Adjudication Panel for Wales awaiting a Tribunal date.

07/13/TCC – decided not to investigate

B. Dispensations

B1. Applications - Town and Community Councillors

No applications for dispensation have been received from Town and Community Councillors.

C. Appointment of Independent (Lay) Member of Standards Community Sub-Committee.

The process for appointing an Independent (Lay) Member to replace Independent Member Mrs Harris has commenced.

Details of the vacancy were included in the Red Kite, the Council newsletter circulated to all addresses in Powys. This has elicited to date 57 expressions of interest although 4 have already confirmed their ineligibility. An advertisement will appear in local papers covering the county the week commencing 27th January 2014..

A provisional date for shortlisting has been set for Thursday 6th March 2013 and an agreed date for the Appointment Panel has been set for Thursday 13th March 2013. The Appointment Panel will be comprised of the following representatives:

Independent (Lay) Chair	High Sheriff Mr Bernard Harris
Chair of Standards Committee	Independent Member Mrs Helen Rhydderch-Roberts
Vice Chair of Standards Committee	Independent Member Mr Ralph Harris
County Councillor Representative from Standards Committee	To be appointed
Community Councillor Representative from Standards Committee	To be appointed

The final two appointments will be made at the meeting of the Standards Committee and Standards Community Sub-Committee.

The committee is asked to appoint the Town and Community Councillor representative on the Panel.

D. Constitution

The Democratic Services Committee has been working on producing an updated Constitution. A copy of Section 18 relating to the Members' Code of Conduct is attached at Appendix 2 of the Report to the Standards Committee. This includes a new section on the Procedure for Dealing with Allegations made against Councillors and referred to the Standards Committee. In the past it has been necessary to agree the procedure each time there has been a referral.

The Democratic Services Committee seek comments from the Standards Committee on the proposed amendments to Section 18.

E. Ombudsman's Case Book

The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales has published the first Code of Conduct Casebook which covers the period April – September 2013 and is attached at Appendix 3 of the Report to the Standards Committee. These casebooks will now be published on a six monthly basis.

Members are asked if they would wish for training following the next meeting based on the Casebook.

F. Meeting Dates.

F.1. To note dates of future meetings as follows:

9th April 2014
25th June 2014
3rd September 2014
3rd December 2014

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

Contact Officer Name:	Tel:	Fax:	Email:
<i>Clive Pinney – Solicitor to the Council</i>	<i>01597 826746</i>	<i>01597 826220</i>	<u>clive.pinney@powys.gov.uk</u>