

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

**Standards Community Sub - Committee
2 October 2019**

REPORT BY: Head of Legal and Democratic Services

SUBJECT: Standards Issues

REPORT FOR: Decision, Information and Discussion

A Referral of Councillors to Public Services Ombudsman

A1. Town and Community Councillor Referrals

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

7/17/TCC	Ombudsman investigating
7/18/TCC	Complaint received – Ombudsman not investigating but now subject to review
8/18/TCC	Ombudsman deciding whether or not to investigate
10/18/TCC	Ombudsman deciding whether or not to investigate
11/18/TCC	Ombudsman deciding whether or not to investigate
13/18/TCC	Ombudsman investigating
15/18/TCC	Ombudsman deciding whether or not to investigate
16/18/TCC	Ombudsman deciding whether or not to investigate
17/18/TCC	Concluded no action
02/19/TCC	Ombudsman deciding whether or not to investigate
03/19/TCC	Not investigating
04/19/TCC	Not investigating

B. Dispensations

B1. Applications - Town and Community Councillors

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

C. Ombudsman's Casebook

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

- January – March 2019

A copy of the 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:

<https://www.ombudsman.wales/code-of-conducts/>

D. Training of community councillors

A Committee member has raised an issue regarding this as follows:

“My broad understanding is that there is an expectation that One Voice Wales [OVW] provides training to this particular group but we do not seem to ever receive any feedback/information as to how successful this is. As OVW is a subscription provided organisation there is also an issue over how many of the councils are actually members and therefore what percentage of councillors have access to training.

As the Ombudsman has reported that the number of complaints about Community councillors is on the rise, now might be an appropriate time for us to kick start this debate?”

The Head of Democratic Services advises that the Council does not have the capacity to undertake the training of Town and Community on the Members’ Code of Conduct. However, if it did have capacity there would be a charge for such training. The Council took a decision in 2017 to advise Town and Community Councils that they would have to pay for training provided by us and they should look to One Voice Wales for Code of Conduct Training as they provided that training. The County Council also did not want to be in competition with One Voice Wales for the provision of training.

E. Meeting Dates

To note dates of future meetings as follows:

Wednesday 12 February 2020

Wednesday 10 June 2020

Wednesday 7 September 2020

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