

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

Standards Committee 5 December 2022

REPORT BY: Head of Legal and Monitoring Officer

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

Code of Conduct training was held on the 16 May 2022. Eight County Councillors and four co-opted/ lay members were unable to attend this training. These have now completed the required training by watching the recording and completing a short questionnaire.

A2 Members are also completing mandatory training in respect of Cyber security and GDPR, Corporate safeguarding and Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence. These are provided as eLearning and officers are supporting councillors to complete these.

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 referred to Standards Committee

01/CC/2021 Ombudsman not investigating

04/CC/2021 Ombudsman investigating

05/CC/2021 Ombudsman not investigating

06/CC/2021 Ombudsman not investigating

07/CC/2021 Ombudsman not investigating

08/CC/2021 Ombudsman not investigating

01/CC/2022 Ombudsman not investigating

02/CC/2022 Ombudsman not investigating

C. Dispensations

C1. General Dispensations

During the previous lifetime of the Council a number of general dispensations were granted for ongoing or single issues. These dispensations continue in

force until the first meeting of the Standards Committee after the May 2022 elections unless before those elections the Standards Committee revokes, amends or alters the dispensation.

The Committee need to consider the approval of dispensations for the current term of office. Details of the general dispensations is attached at **Appendix 1**.

C2. Applications - County Councillors

No applications for dispensation have been received from County Councillors.

D. Ombudsman's Casebook

The Ombudsman has replaced the Code of Conduct Casebooks, which were published on a Quarterly basis, with [Ombudsman Wales - Our Findings](#). It should be noted that "Our Findings" covers all matters investigated by the Ombudsman and not just Code of Conduct matters. "Our Findings" is updated on a monthly basis.

'Our Findings' contains a search facility, which includes "Subject". Under the "Subject" heading the following categories of the Code are listed:

- Integrity
- Promotion of equality and respect
- Disclosure and registration of interest
- Duty to uphold the law
- Selflessness and Stewardship

E. National Standards Forum

The Chair has been invited to the first meeting of the National Standards Forum on 8 December 2022.

F. Standards Committee for Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee ("CJC")

The Standards Committee are asked to appoint 1 County Councillor Member of the Standards Committee and 2 Independent Members of the Standards Committee to form part of a new Standards Committee of the Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee.

G. Meeting Dates

To note dates of meetings in 2023 as follows:

8 February at 2pm

14 June at 2pm

25 October at 2pm

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