

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL
Standards Committee
21 June 2023

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

No update required.

B. Members attendance

Attendance for Members at main Committees for the period 9 May 2022 to 17 May 2023 inclusive has been calculated. Six councillors had an attendance below 60%. Of these, three have had absences due to personal reasons. The Chair wrote to the other three members and asked them to check that their attendance details were correct and also for an explanation for their absences. On checking one member's attendance has been corrected which has brought their attendance above 60%, one member has explained that their absence was due to personal reasons and one member has not provided an explanation and is now on holiday.

The Committee is asked to note the above and that the Monitoring Officer will contact the member for an explanation, when they return from holiday.

C. Referral of Councillors to Public Services Ombudsman

C1. County Councillor Referrals

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

02/CC/2020 Ombudsman referred to Standards Committee

04/CC/2021 Referred to Adjudication Panel for Wales [APW] - APW hearing regarding former Councillor Karen Laurie-Parry will be held on 6 July 2023.

03/CC/2022 Ombudsman investigating

04/CC/2022 Ombudsman not investigating

05/CC/2022 Ombudsman investigating.

D. Dispensations

D1. Applications - County Councillors

No applications for dispensation have been received from County Councillors.

E. Appointments to the Standards Community Sub-Committee

A postal election (nominations followed by ballot) has been held to elect a Town and Community Councillor to the vacancy to represent Brecknockshire. The closing date for the postal election is 4.00pm on 19 June 2023.

The Committee will be advised verbally of the successful candidate.

RECOMMENDED:	
1. That the successful community councillor, elected by the Town and Community Councils in Brecknockshire, be appointed to the Standards Community Sub-Committee.	To constitute the Standards Community Sub-Committee.
2. That the term of office of the Town and Community Councillor be for the maximum term permitted by the existing regulations or by any amending regulations (currently a maximum of five years) or until they cease to be a Councillor or resign whichever shall first occur.	

As the Committee was previously advised by email, the community councillor elected by Town and Community Councils in Radnorshire, Councillor Nigel Dodman has resigned as a Community Councillor and so a replacement is now needed for this vacancy.

The timetable for the election is detailed below and the Committee is asked to note this, which will enable an appointment to be made at the meeting in October.

Letter to T/CCs requesting nominations	Week commencing 12 June 2023
Return of nominations – usually 8 weeks	4pm 18 August 2023
Letter to T/CCs re ballot	Week commencing 28 August 2023
Return of ballot papers	4pm 23 October 2023
Letter to T/CCs regarding outcome of ballot	Week commencing 23 October 2023
Appointment by Standards Committee	25 October 2023

F. Ombudsman Wales – Our Findings

Details of cases are available in [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

G. National Forum for Standards Committees

The first meeting of the Forum took place on 27 January 2023 and the minutes are attached, Appendix 1. The next meeting is scheduled for 30 June 2023.

H. Consultation on the Penn Review response (Local Authorities Ethical Standards Framework and Code of Conduct)

The consultation on the recommendations of the Independent Review of Ethical Standards Framework concludes on 23 June 2023. The Committee’s views on the recommendations is sought.

[Recommendations of the Independent Review of the Ethical Standards Framework \(Richard Penn report\) | GOV.WALES](#)

I. Meeting Dates

To note dates of meetings in 2023 as follows:
25 October at 2pm

Contact Officer Name:	Tel:	Fax:	Email:
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