

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Standards Committee held in the Conference Room, Ty Nant, Nant Hall Road, Prestatyn on Friday, 23 September 2011 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT

Mr. C.B. Halliday (Chair), Ms. M.E. Medley, Mr. G.F. Roberts and Mrs. P. White together with Councillors G.A. Green, D.E. Jones and H. Ll. Jones

ALSO PRESENT

Deputy Monitoring Officer and Solicitor: Corporate Governance (LJ) and Committee Administrator (KEJ). The Sustainable Assets Project Manager (HB) attended for item number 6.

1 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations of personal or prejudicial interest had been raised.

3 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

No urgent matters had been raised.

4 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Standards Committee held on 15 July 2011 were submitted.

Accuracy –

Page No. 5: North Wales Standards Committee Meeting – In order to more accurately reflect the intended meaning of the sentence, Councillor G.A. Green asked that the word ‘prospective’ in the final paragraph on page 5 be amended to ‘interpretation’ to read ‘...with each authority having a different interpretation of the Code of Conduct’.

Matters Arising –

Page 3 – Item No. 5: Code of Conduct Complaints – Councillor G.A. Green queried whether a letter had been sent to Powys County Council Standards Committee in response to their concerns on matters of non-referral by the Ombudsman in respect of certain breaches of the Code of Conduct. The Deputy Monitoring Officer confirmed that a letter had been sent expressing this Standards Committee’s view

that the matter be referred to the Standards Conference Wales 2011 for consideration and guidance. Members hoped that there would be an opportunity to debate the issue directly with the Ombudsman at that conference.

Page 5 – Item No. 7: North Wales Standards Committee Meeting – The Chair reported that the meeting scheduled for 22 September 2011 had been cancelled and that the next meeting would be held on 1 November at Conwy Business Centre. It was usual for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Standards Committee to attend although there was an open invitation for all Standards Committee members. Mr. G.F. Roberts (Vice Chair) had tendered his apologies for that meeting and Mrs. P. White confirmed that she would be willing to attend in his place.

RESOLVED that, subject to the above, the minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2011 be received and approved as a correct record.

5 ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

The Deputy Monitoring Officer (DMO) advised that no written reports of attendance at County, Town or Community Council meetings had been submitted by members of the Standards Committee.

Mrs. M. Medley informed the committee that she had attended a meeting of Denbigh Town Council on 27 July 2011 which had appeared well organised and controlled. She reported that there had been a vociferous debate on the proposed Charter between County and Town/Community Councils and sought guidance as to whether she could make reference to that discussion when the Standards Committee considered that item on today's agenda. The Chair was aware that matters of a similar nature had already been raised during the consultation process on the proposed Charter and as such felt it was appropriate for Mrs. Medley to comment on those aspects when that item came under discussion by the committee.

RESOLVED that the position be noted.

6 A CHARTER BETWEEN DENBIGHSHIRE'S TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS AND DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

A report by the Sustainable Assets Project Manager (SAPM) was submitted (previously circulated) on the proposed Charter between Denbighshire's Town and Community Councils (T&CCs) and Denbighshire County Council (DCC). The draft Charter (Appendix A); Initial Consultation Responses (Appendix B), and the Charter Consultation Timeline (Appendix C) had been attached to the report.

The SAPM briefly explained the role of the T&CC Devolution and Empowerment Working Group in developing and producing the draft Charter together with her role within that process. She referred to the rationale behind the proposed Charter in order to define and enhance the existing relationship between Denbighshire's T&CC and DCC and in setting out the Councils' undertakings to ensure the benefit of joint working was realised for the well being of residents. This process had also been carried out with due regard to an ever increasing agenda of collaboration and the potential for increased regionalisation. The Charter was an important way in which

DCC and T&CC's could meet the needs of local areas and engage both DCC and T&CC stakeholders in a positive and collaborative way and to ensure a consistent approach across the county. The SAPM also referred to the agenda headlines within the draft Charter and highlighted items of particular interest to the committee.

Initial consultation on the draft Charter had been launched in June 2011 and timelines had been extended based on previous feedback from the Standards Committee and T&CCs to take into account the summer recess and timings of T&CC meetings. Reference was made to the initial consultation responses (Appendix 2 to the report) which had been mainly positive although there had been contention on some issues. DCC had been willing to meet with T&CCs to discuss the draft Charter and the Leader and Corporate Director Learning and Communities had attended a meeting of Prestatyn Town Council and the SAPM would shortly be attending a meeting of Corwen Community Council. To facilitate meetings with T&CCs a 'Frequently Asked Questions' page (circulated at the meeting) had been produced to address some of the concerns raised.

Finally members were advised that formal adoption and signing of the Charter would take place in December following the second consultation phase and it was hoped to launch the Charter in January 2012 together with the Third Sector Compact. In response to a question from the Chair, the SAPM advised that although some South Wales authorities had introduced a Charter she was not aware of any other North Wales authorities who had done so.

During the ensuing discussion members expressed their views and commented on the draft Charter as follows –

- highlighted that some Community Councils felt that they were being 'taken over' by DCC
- the use of the language within the document should be reviewed in order to become more user friendly and appealing to T&CCs e.g. 'DCC is going to host at least two liaison meetings...' be changed to read 'DCC is going to organise at least two liaison meetings' as 'host' implied that DCC was controlling the event
- for clarity reference to 'local councils' within the Charter should be changed to 'town and community councils'
- welcomed the mutual obligations in the Charter for training, namely the undertakings for DCC to offer training events to T&CCs on relevant areas including Planning Policies and Code of Conduct and for T&CCs to actively participate in training opportunities; and advocated the use of examples being used in training sessions in order to illustrate how matters could apply in particular circumstances
- suggested that training on the Code of Conduct be made mandatory for all Town & Community Councillors and that a well trained Councillor or trained member of the Standards Committee could undertake ad hoc training in that regard. The SAPM advised that there were a number of trained staff who would be able to deliver training to T&CCs
- taking into account that lay people working within the community may be discouraged by the thought of having to undertake training there was a

suggestion that training be referred to within the document in more acceptable terms such as understanding the system

- highlighted that there was an obligation on County, Town and Community Councils to educate potential councillors
- the powers and duties of the county council had not been included within the Charter and there was a lack of reference to planning in the powers and activities applicable to T&CCs
- the Charter needed to be a living document brought to life through its implementation and continually appraised
- there was no reference within the draft Charter as to how it would be applied and adhered to and there was a need to ensure that the operation of the Charter was continually monitored and reviewed to ensure its effectiveness and success

Councillor H.LI. Jones, who was a member of the T&CC Devolution and Empowerment Working Group explained the initial reasoning behind setting up the Group in order to deal with DCC's budget situation and to address the anomalies between the services provided by the different T&CCs. He highlighted the need for a consistent approach in the interests of fairness. It was important to define the roles of the T&CCs and to allow information to be shared and it would be an ongoing and lengthy process. It was also of note that an increase in Council Tax at County level could be capped but the precept applied by T&CCs could not.

Overall members felt that the Charter could play an important role in fostering positive relations between County and Town and Community Councils provided the process was managed sensitively taking into account the views of the T&CCs and consultation responses, particularly where there were issues of contention. The consensus of opinion was that any methods which improved communication between councils would be beneficial and the importance of County Councillors acting as a conduit between County and Town and Community Councils was particularly highlighted. Members also welcomed a number of key messages from the draft Charter, particularly the importance of councils actively reviewing and having regard to their code of conduct and training opportunities.

Having considered members' comments on the draft Charter the SAPM agreed to –

- replace references to 'local councils' with 'town and community councils'
- undertake an audit of the draft Charter for 'turn off' words and replace with more appealing terminology
- strengthen the Monitoring, Review and Complaints section of the Charter detailing how the document would be applied and adhered to (including references to training in induction; adding the Charter as an agenda item for the Middle Managers Conference (MMC); the role of Communities Scrutiny Committee in appraising its implementation, and how the clusters would play a critical friend role)
- consider the possibility of including a Powers and Duties appendix for County Council as well as T&CCs

The Chair thanked the SAPM for her interesting and informative presentation of the Charter and it was –

RESOLVED that, subject to members' comments above, the draft Charter between Denbighshire's Town and Community Councils and Denbighshire County Council be endorsed for the second phase of consultation.

7 SELF REGULATORY PROTOCOL

A report by the Monitoring Officer was submitted (previously circulated) presenting the proposed version of the Self Regulatory Protocol prior to its consideration by Group Leaders and thereafter full Council. A copy of the Self Regulatory Protocol (Appendix 1) together with the response to the draft Protocol from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (Appendix 2) had been attached to the report.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer (DMO) referred to the committee's previous concerns regarding complaints between members which were not sufficiently serious enough to be referred to the Ombudsman, and that the Members Code of Conduct may on occasion be used as a political tool. In order to address those concerns a Self Regulatory Protocol had been developed which included some minor amendments agreed by the committee at their last meeting. The Protocol established a procedure for those complaints which may not reach the threshold to become a breach, to be dealt with under a local procedure; and that which justified a formal complaint to be referred to the Ombudsman. The current proposal would involve a commitment from Group Leaders and one member (in rotation) from the Standards Committee. The intention was for the Protocol to sit alongside the Code of Conduct. A revised action plan detailing the consultation process prior to adoption of the Protocol had been set out in paragraph 2.4 of the report. The extension of such a Protocol to all Town and Community Councils would also need to be considered by the Standards Committee at a future meeting. Finally the DMO drew members' attention to the Ombudsman's positive response to the draft Protocol which had been attached to the report.

Members were pleased to note the positive response to the draft Protocol from the Ombudsman who had effectively endorsed the measures for dealing with issues locally with the caveat that serious breaches must be made to his office in accordance with existing legislation. The DMO referred to the Member/Member Complaints Flowchart and the committee welcomed the Monitoring Officer being involved at all stages and were also pleased to note the inclusion of an Independent Member of the Standards Committee within the process.

The committee discussed a number of issues with the DMO arising from the report including –

- as members would still have the option of sending minor complaints directly to the Ombudsman there was a need to actively encourage all councillors to follow the Self Regulatory Protocol once it was adopted to ensure minor complaints were dealt with at local level in the future; as Full Council would be asked to formally adopt the Protocol it was hoped that all councillors would be committed to this approach
- reference should be made within the report to Full Council to the Ombudsman's positive response and his willingness for such issues to be

discussed locally and the DMO agreed to include the Ombudsman's letter when submitting the report on the Protocol to Full Council for adoption

- noted the reference within the Ombudsman's letter to a potential change within the legislation which may allow for local procedures to be fully exhausted in the first instance before being referred to the Ombudsman's office if issues were not capable of local resolution
- the difficulty in wording the context of minor complaints to explain that where complaints which may not reach the threshold to become a breach should be dealt with under the local procedures was highlighted together with the absence of a particular individual to define whether a complaint reached the threshold – it was suggested that if there was doubt then the complaint should be directed to the Ombudsman and that in future, reference to “..for those complaints which may not reach the threshold” be replaced with “...for those complaints which are not considered to reach the threshold...”
- the potential to extend the Protocol to all Town and Community Councils was supported as a viable option once the example had been set at County level, particularly in view of the number of member-member complaints, and the DMO suggested that a pilot project for Town and Community Councils may be appropriate
- it was also suggested that if the Protocol was to be extended to Town and Community Councils there may be an opportunity for all members of the Standards Committee to be involved in the process as opposed to just the independent members
- mediation techniques for the Monitoring & Deputy Monitoring Officer, Group Leaders and members of the Standards Committee would be useful for dealing with members complaints as part of the new Protocol

The DMO indicated that she would feedback members' comments to Group Leaders and report back further to the committee's next meeting.

RESOLVED that –

- (a) the committee's comments on the draft Self Regulatory Protocol as detailed above be reported back to Group Leaders;*
- (b) a progress report on the draft Self Regulatory Protocol be submitted to the next meeting of the Standards Committee, and*
- (c) as part of their role in dealing with members complaints under the Self Regulatory Protocol mediation training be arranged for the Monitoring Officer, Deputy Monitoring Officer, Group Leaders and Members of the Standards Committee.*

8 NORTH WALES STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING

The minutes of the North Wales Standards Committee Forum meeting held in Conwy Business Centre on 10 June 2011 (previously circulated) were submitted.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer reminded members that the North Wales Standards Committee Forum meeting scheduled for 22 September 2011 had been cancelled

and the next meeting would be held on 1 November at Conwy Business Centre. Mr. G.F. Roberts (Vice Chair) had tendered his apologies for that meeting and Mrs. P. White confirmed that she would be willing to attend in his place.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North Wales Standards Committee Forum held on 10 June 2011 be received and noted.

9 STANDARDS CONFERENCE WALES 2011

The Deputy Monitoring Officer (DMO) sought confirmation from members of their attendance at the Standards Conference to be held at Powys County Council on 5 October 2011. A copy of the papers for the meeting had been circulated at the meeting.

The DMO referred to the papers for the Standards Conference and advised that delegates had been asked to read the scenario for the mock hearing in advance of the meeting itself. Councillors G.A. Green and H. Ll. Jones tendered their apologies for the Standards Conference but all other members confirmed their attendance. The committee briefly discussed travel arrangements and the DMO agreed to contact those members attending the following week to confirm those arrangements.

RESOLVED that the availability of members to attend the Standards Conference Wales 2011 be noted.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 12 and 13 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Act..

10 CODE OF CONDUCT – PART 3 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000

A confidential report by the Monitoring Officer was submitted (previously circulated) providing an overview of complaints against members lodged with the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales since 1 December 2010.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer (DMO) presented the report to members which detailed the authority subject to complaint; the alleged complaint; the outcome, and the source of complaint for a number of completed and ongoing cases. Having considered the number of member-member complaints which had not been pursued by the Ombudsman the committee reiterated their view that it would be beneficial for the Members' Self Regulatory Protocol to be extended to Town/Community Councils. The committee also noted that member complaints had been confined to just four authorities within Denbighshire with 50% of the complaints originating from just one Town Council. Concerns were expressed regarding the potential for retaliation between members subject of complaints with vexatious, malicious or frivolous complaints against other members which was contrary to the spirit of the Code of Conduct. Accordingly members felt that the report had highlighted a training need and it was agreed that training on the Code of Conduct should start with those

authorities who had been subject to member complaints as highlighted within the report; specifically the Town Council who had been subject to the highest number of member complaints first.

At this juncture Councillor D.E. Jones and Councillor G.A. Green sought clarification from the DMO regarding their attendance and role at particular meetings. The DMO provided legal advice to those members and highlighted the importance of ensuring that members were not prejudiced or compromised in respect of issues which could be referred to the committee for consideration in the future. In terms of members attendance at County, Town and Community Council meetings, their report back to this committee needed to be objective.

Finally in response to a question from Councillor H.LI. Jones regarding ongoing complaints against councillors who failed to be re-elected, the DMO advised that complaints would continue to be investigated but sanctions would need to be imposed recognising that fact.

RESOLVED that –

- (a) *the report be received and noted, and*
- (b) *it be recommended that training on the Code of Conduct should start with those authorities detailed within the report who had been subject to member complaints, with the Town Council who had been subject to the highest number of complaints first.*

The meeting concluded at 11.40 a.m.

REPORT TO: Standards Committee
REPORT BY: Monitoring Officer
DATE: 23rd September 2011
SUBJECT: SELF REGULATORY PROTOCOL

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide Members with an update on the progress of the Self-Regulatory Protocol.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The role of the Standards Committee is to promote and maintain high standards of conduct amongst Members and to assist them to keep to the Code of Conduct. The Standards Committee has previously raised some concern over the number of complaints made between Members which may relate to minor complaints and themselves not sufficiently serious enough to be referred to the Ombudsman as breaches of the Code of Conduct.

2.2 Paragraph 6(1) of the Members' Code of Conduct states that Members must not make vexatious, malicious or frivolous complaints against other Members, this itself is a breach of the Code. The Committee has previously expressed concern that the Code may on occasion be used as a political tool, and that this was not its' purpose. The Committee also requested to be informed regularly with information on the level and nature of member-member complaints.

2.3 A Self Regulatory Protocol, with some amendments as a result of the consultation to date, is attached at Appendix 1. The purpose of the Protocol is to establish a procedure for those complaints which may not reach the threshold to become a breach, to be dealt with under a local procedure; and that which justifies a formal complaint to be referred to the Ombudsman. If adopted, the Protocol is intended to sit alongside the Code of Conduct, it would not, and could not replace the statutory Code. The current proposal will involve a commitment from Group Leaders and one independent member (in rotation) from the Standards Committee.

2.4 The Leader and Group Leaders have considered the Protocol and now require the Consultation to be extended to all Councilors in advance of any debate on the protocol and its procedure by Full Council.

2.5A revised action plan sets out the consultation process prior to any adoption by Full Council. A copy of the draft Protocol has also been provided to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales early in the process.

| ACTION REQUIRED | BY WHOM | DATE |
|--|----------------------------------|--|
| Consideration of protocol and its procedures and feedback to MO | CET | Completed. |
| Obtain views and approval in principle from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales | Monitoring Officer | Completed. |
| Report to Group Leaders | Monitoring Officer | Completed. |
| Report to Standards Committee on first draft | Monitoring Officer | Completed. |
| Consultation process with all Members | Monitoring Officer | Members have been provided with the Protocol and can provide feedback by 5th January 2012. |
| Further report to Standards Committee with final draft | Monitoring Officer | 27th January 2012 |
| Consideration by Informal Council if required, then full Council. | Leader/Monitoring Officer | 10th January 2011 and 28th February 2012 |

3 RECOMMENDATION

That Members note the progress being made.

MEMBER'S SELF REGULATORY PROTOCOL

General Principles

- To promote high standards of conduct and behaviour as a means of strengthening respect and trust among members. It is NOT intended to replace the Code of Conduct, rather it is intended to sit alongside the Code, enabling behaviour which may not reach the threshold to become a breach to be dealt with; and that which justifies a formal complaint to the Ombudsman.
- The protocol does not replace the Member-Officer Relations Protocol set out in the Council's Constitution.
- Members will make all reasonable attempts to resolve disputes through agreed internal processes subject to their obligations under the Members' Code of Conduct.
- Referral to external regulators will become a last resort subject to Members' obligations under the Code of Conduct.
- Members will avoid personal confrontation in any public forum, especially full Council and through the media
- These commitments will not stifle legitimate political debate or scrutiny
- Group discipline will become the cornerstone of self-regulation with Group Leaders taking responsibility for their own members
- Group Leaders individually and collectively will work to ensure compliance with this protocol
- Members will commit to training and development in support of this protocol

Working to avoid problems

To minimise the number of instances of alleged breaches all Group Leaders have committed to :-

- **A Member Learning and Development Strategy** – to which they will seek to secure the commitment of their group members. All reasonable endeavours will be made to

ensure that the Learning and Development Strategy identifies and responds to the needs of members.

- **Attending relevant Member training events** - in particular those relating to the Code of Conduct or probity courses within the scope of their role.
- **WLGA Charter** – The Council has been awarded the WLGA's Charter for Member Support and Development and supports its objectives. Group Leaders will seek to secure individual member commitment to training and keep this under review.

Role of Group Leaders

A complaint by a member relating to a member of the same group will be referred to the Group Leader. A complaint by a member concerning the activities of a member of a different political group will be discussed with the complainant's own Group Leader, who will then refer the issue to the Group Leader with responsibility for the member against whom the complaint is made.

Upon receiving a complaint, it is the role of Group Leaders to take responsibility for discipline within their groups. Group discipline should seek to be informal, resolved through face to face meetings. Group Leaders will need to retain some records but the process will not be "document heavy". The emphasis should be on training, education, mediation and conciliation.

When appropriate, a sanction such as removal from a committee or an outside body, may be used in extreme cases or after persistent breaches and the matter will be referred to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

Prior to considering any sanction, or training, the relevant Group Leader may consult with a member of the Standards Committee in conjunction with the Monitoring Officer or Deputy Monitoring Officer. The Standards Committee will seek to ensure fairness and consistency in the discipline imposed within each Group.

At the next available Group Leaders' meeting any issue of discipline which has been referred to a Group Leader will be discussed with the Group and with the objective of seeking to ensure that fair and consistent sanctions are applied.

Where the complaint relates to the Group Leader themselves, the Chair will be requested to consider the complaint, just as with unaffiliated members.

Unaffiliated Members

As far as unaffiliated members are concerned, the Chair of the Council will fulfil the role of Group Leader. Concerns regarding the conduct of an unaffiliated member should be referred to the Chair who will apply the same principles and standards as those of the Group Leaders in terms of training/mediation/conciliation. In the case of persistent breaches the matter shall be referred to the Ombudsman by the Monitoring Officer or in his/her absence the Deputy Monitoring Officer.

Persistent Breaches

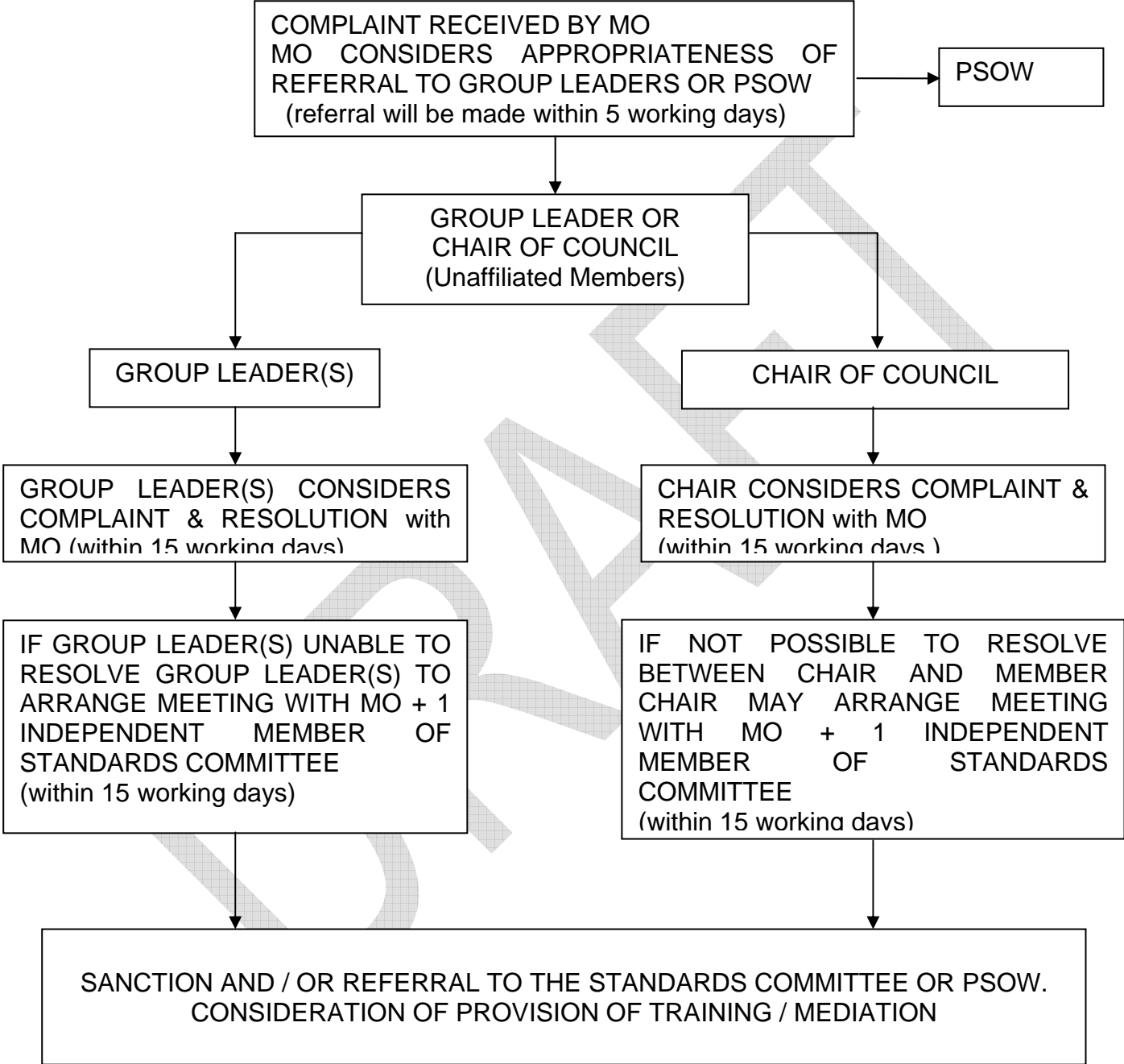
In the case of persistent breaches, or areas where the Group Leaders have concerns that the conduct of an individual member or members is damaging to relations between political groups or to the reputation of the Council, then the Group Leaders will meet with the Chief Executive Officer and the Monitoring Officer to agree a way forward. Consideration will be given to joint references to the Ombudsman, by the Group Leaders, for persistent low level breaches.

Standards Committee

- Owing to any potential issues of conflict, any involvement will include no more than one independent member of the Standards Committee. This will be subject to a rotational basis and in accordance with availability.
- The Standards Committee Members will play a supporting/advisory role to the Group Leaders. This process will be initiated at the request of the Group Leader, in a particular case.
- Such meetings will be private and informal.
- Any documentation, attendance notes, file notes or advisory notes passing between a Group Leader (or as appropriate the Chair of the Council) and the members of the Standards Committee shall remain private and confidential.

This protocol will be reviewed by May 2013.

MEMBER / MEMBER COMPLAINTS FLOWCHART



PERSISTENT BREACHES, GROUP LEADERS WILL MEET WITH CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND MONITORING OFFICER TO AGREE WAY FORWARD. CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO JOINT REFERENCES TO THE OMBUDSMAN BY GROUP LEADERS FOR PERSISTENT, LOW LEVEL BREACHES.



FFORWM PWYLLGORAU SAFONAU GOGLEDD CYMRU NORTH WALES STANDARDS COMMITTEES FORUM

**Dydd Mawrth, 1 Tachwedd 2011 at 10.00 am
Tuesday, 1 November 2011 at 10.00 am**

Bodlondeb, Conwy

| | |
|---|---|
| Ynys Môn/Isle of Anglesey | Jeff Cotterell - Cadeirydd/Chair Sue Morris - Is-Gadeirydd/Vice-Chairman Lynn Ball - Swyddog Monitro/Monitoring Officer Robyn Jones - Dirprwy Swyddog Monitro/Deputy Monitoring Officer |
| Conwy | Howie Roberts - Cadeirydd/Chair Paul Sturges - Is-Gadeirydd/Vice-Chair Delyth Jones - Swyddog Monitro/Monitoring Officer |
| Sir Ddinbych/Denbighshire | Clive B. Halliday - Cadeirydd/Chair Geraint F. Roberts - Is-Gadeirydd/Vice-Chairman Jane Kennedy - Swyddog Monitro/Monitoring Officer Lisa Jones - Dirprwy Swyddog Monitro/Deputy Monitoring Officer |
| Sir y Fflint/Flintshire | Anwen Jones – Monitoring Officer Merfyn Roberts - Cadeirydd/Chair Kevin Sibbons - Is-Gadeirydd/Vice-Chairman |
| Gwynedd | John Pollard - Cadeirydd / Chair Gwilym Ellis Evans Is – Gadeirydd/Vice-Chairman Dilys Ann Phillips – Swyddog Monitro/Monitoring Officer Sion Huws – Swyddog Priodoldeb/Propriety Officer |
| Wrecsam/Wrexham | Rob Dawson – Cadeirydd/Chair Ceri Nash – Is-Gadeirydd/Vice-Chairman Trevor Coxon – Swyddog Monitro/Monitoring Officer Gary Williams – Dirprwy Swyddog Monitro/Deputy Monitoring Officer |
| Awdurdod Tân ac Achub/ Fire Authority and Rescue Authority | Simon Fysh – Cadeirydd/Chair |
| Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri/ Snowdonia National Park | Peter Rowland – Cadeirydd/Chair |

R H A G L E N

1. **Penodi Is-Gadeirydd**

2. **Ymddiheuriadau**

3. **Cofnodion**

Cymeradwyo a llofnodi cofnodion y cyfarfod diwethaf fel cofnod cywir (*Tudalennau 1 - 5*)

4. **Cylch Gorchwyl**

Trafod a ddylai Fforwm Pwyllgorau Safonau Gogledd Cymru fod â Chylch Gorchwyl penodol.

5. **Cofrestr Anrhegion a Lletygarwch**

Canfod y lefel gwerth a sefydlwyd gan Awdurdodau Lleol ar gyfer cofrestru anrhegion a lletygarwch gan Aelodau.

6. **Atborth o Gynhadledd Safonau Cymru**

Cael atborth o Gynhadledd Safonau Cymru a gynhaliwyd 5 Hydref 2011 yn Llandrindod.

7. **Ymateb gan yr Ombwdsmon ynglyn â Fforwm Pwyllgorau Safonau Gogledd Cymru** (*Tudalennau 6 - 7*)

8. **Dyddiad y cyfarfod nesaf**

Nodyn: Nid yw Deddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972 yn caniatáu ystyried unrhyw eitem o fusnes mewn cyfarfod o'r prif Gyngor oni bai fod y rhybudd angenrheidiol wedi ei roi ymlaen llaw. Felly, oni bai fod eitem yn cael ei hystyried fel eitem frys, ni chaniateir ystyried unrhyw fater arall.

Os bydd y larwm tân yn canu, dylai'r Aelodau fynd allan o'r adeilad drwy'r allanfa dân agosaf.

MANNAU YMGYNNULL, edrychwch ar y rhybudd "Beth i'w wneud os bydd tân" sydd i'w weld yn Siambr y Cyngor / Ystafell Bwyllgor Ganolig / Ystafell Bwyllgor 3

A G E N D A

1. **Appointment of Vice-Chairman**

2. **Apologies**

3. **Minutes**

To approve as a correct record minutes of the previous meeting.
(Pages 1 - 5)

4. **Terms of Reference**

To discuss whether the North Wales Standards Committee Forum should have a set Terms of Reference.

5. **Register of Gifts and Hospitality**

To ascertain the level of value set by Local Authorities for the registration of gifts and hospitalities by Members.

6. **Feedback from the Standards Conference Wales**

To receive feedback on the Standards Conference Wales held on 5 October 2011 in Llandrindod Wells.

7. **Response from Ombudsman regarding the North Wales Standards Committees Forum** (Pages 6 - 7)

8. **Date of Next Meeting**

Note: The Local Government Act 1972 does not allow an item of business to be considered at a meeting of a principal Council unless requisite advance notice has been given. Therefore, unless the item is considered to be urgent, consideration of any other business is not allowed

In the event of the fire alarm being activated, would all Members please vacate the premises through the nearest fire exit.

FOR ASSEMBLY POINTS, please refer to “Actions in the Event of a Fire” notice displayed in the Council Chamber / Medium Committee Room / Meeting Room 3

FFORWM PWYLLGORAU SAFONAU GOGLEDD CYMRU

Dydd Gwener, 10 Mehefin 2011, am 10.00 am
Canolfan Fusnes Conwy

YN BRESENNOL: Howie Roberts (Cadeirydd - Conwy)

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Barry Davies | Swyddog Monitro – Sir y Fflint |
| Iwan Davies | Swyddog Monitro - Conwy |
| Gwilym Ellis Evans | Is-Gadeirydd - Gwynedd |
| Jenni Frost (yn lle Paul Sturges) | Aelod Annibynnol - Conwy |
| Simon Fysh | Cadeirydd – Awdurdod Tân ac Achub |
| Clive B. Halliday | Cadeirydd – Sir Ddinbych |
| Sion Huws | Swyddog Priodoldeb - Gwynedd |
| Lisa Jones | Dirprwy Swyddog Monitro – Sir Ddinbych |
| Meirion Jones (yn lle Lynn Ball) | Ynys Môn |
| Sue Morris | Is-Gadeirydd - Ynys Môn |
| Geraint F. Roberts | Is-Gadeirydd – Sir Ddinbych |
| Merfyn Roberts | Cadeirydd – Sir y Fflint |

6. **PENODI CADEIRYDD AR GYFER Y CYFARFOD**

Cynigiwyd ac eiliwyd bod Mr Howie Roberts yn cael ei enwebu fel Cadeirydd ar gyfer y cyfarfod.

I hwyluso parhad, cytunwyd y dylid penodi Mr Howie Roberts yn Gadeirydd am gyfnod o 12 mis.

CYTUNWYD-

Penodi Mr Howie Roberts yn Gadeirydd Fforwm Pwyllgorau Safonau Gogledd Cymru ar gyfer 2011/2012.

7. **YMDDIHEURIADAU**

Derbyniwyd ymddiheuriadau gan Lynn Ball (Ynys Môn), Jeff Cotterell (Ynys Môn), Trevor Coxon (Wrecsam), Rob Dawson (Wrecsam), Robyn Jones (Ynys Môn), Jane Kennedy (Sir Ddinbych), Ceri Nash (Wrecsam), Dilys Ann Phillips (Gwynedd), John Pollard (Gwynedd), Kevin Sibbons (Sir y Fflint), Paul Sturges (Conwy) a Gary Williams (Wrecsam).

8. **COFNODION**

Cyflwynwyd cofnodion cyfarfod Fforwm Pwyllgorau Safonau Gogledd Cymru a gynhaliwyd ar 15 Ebrill 2011 i'w cymeradwyo.

O safbwynt y Polisi Chwythu'r Chwiban (Cofnod Rhif 4) dywedwyd bod hwn yn cael ei ddatblygu gan Wrecsam yn hytrach na Sir y Fflint.

NORTH WALES STANDARDS COMMITTEES FORUM AGENDA ITEM 3

Friday, 10 June 2011 at 10.00 am
Conwy Business Centre

| | | |
|-----------------|--|--|
| PRESENT: | Howie Roberts (Chair) | Chair - Conwy |
| | Barry Davies | Monitoring Officer - Flintshire |
| | Iwan Davies | Monitoring Officer - Conwy |
| | Gwilym Ellis Evans | Vice-Chairman - Gwynedd |
| | Jenni Frost (In place of Paul Sturges) | Independent Member - Conwy |
| | Simon Fysh | Chair - Fire and Rescue Authority |
| | Clive B. Halliday | Chair - Denbighshire |
| | Sion Huws | Propriety Officer - Gwynedd |
| | Lisa Jones | Deputy Monitoring Officer - Denbighshire |
| | Meirion Jones (In place of Lynn Ball) | Isle of Anglesey |
| | Sue Morris | Vice-Chairman of Isle - Anglesey |
| | Geraint F. Roberts | Vice-Chairman - Denbighshire |
| | Merfyn Roberts | Chair - Flintshire |

6. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE MEETING

It was proposed and seconded that Mr Howie Roberts be nominated as Chairman for the meeting.

For continuity it was agreed that Mr Howie Roberts be appointed as Chairman for a 12 months period.

AGREED-

That Mr Howie Roberts be appointed as Chairman of the North Wales Standards Committees Forum for 2011/2012.

7. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Lynn Ball (Isle of Anglesey), Jeff Cotterell (Isle of Anglesey), Trevor Coxon (Wrexham), Rob Dawson (Wrexham), Robyn Jones (Isle of Anglesey), Jane Kennedy (Denbighshire), Ceri Nash (Wrexham), Dilys Ann Phillips (Gwynedd), John Pollard (Gwynedd), Kevin Sibbons (Flintshire), Paul Sturges (Conwy) and Gary Williams (Wrexham).

8. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the North Wales Standards Committees Forum held on 15 April 2011 were presented for approval.

With regard to the Whistleblowing Policy (Minute No. 4), it was reported that this was being taken forward by Wrexham and not Flintshire.

Hefyd nodwyd mai Cerrigydrudion oedd yn gywir yn hytrach na Cerridigion yng Nghofnod Rhif 4.

CYTUNWYD-

Yn amodol ar y newidiadau uchod, bod cofnodion cyfarfod Fforwm Pwyllgorau Safonau Gogledd Cymru a gynhaliwyd ar 15 Ebrill 2011 yn cael ei gymeradwyo fel cofnod dilys.

9. **SEFYDLU GWEITHDAI**

Er bydd gweithdai'n cael eu cynnal yn y Gynhadledd Safonau – Cymru 2011, teimlai Aelodau y gellid cynnal gweithdai llai yn effeithiol ar sail Gogledd Cymru yn unig.

Awgrymwyd y gellid cynnal gweithdai'n canolbwyntio ar y gwahanol faterion yn gysylltiedig â'r Cod Ymddygiad ar ddechrau pob cyfarfod o'r Fforwm. Hefyd gallai achosion o dorri'r Cod Ymddygiad, fel y nodir yn adroddiadau'r Ombwdsmon Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus, hefyd fod yn bwnc trafodaeth.

Awgrymwyd ymhellach y gellid ail-gynnal y gweithdai a gynhaliwyd yn y Gynhadledd Safonau ar lefel leol.

CYTUNWYD-

Cynnal y Gweithdai ar ddechrau pob cyfarfod o Fforwm Pwyllgorau Safonau Gogledd Cymru.

10. **SEFYDLU CYSONDEB O RAN DULL**

Mewn perthynas â rhannu gwybodaeth, cyflwynwyd y sylwadau a'r atebion canlynol:-

- Byddai Swyddog Monitro Sir y Fflint yn ymchwilio i'r posibilrwydd fod Pwyllgor Safonau Tân ac Achub Gogledd Cymru'n derbyn yr un wybodaeth â'r Swyddogion Monitro mewn perthynas â materion Safonau
- Bod pob Awdurdod Lleol yn cyhoeddi eu rhaglenni a'u cofnodion Pwyllgor Safonau ar eu gwefannau
- Er mwyn i'r cyhoedd fod yn ymwybodol o bresenoldeb Fforwm Pwyllgorau Safonau Gogledd Cymru, cytunwyd y byddai pob Awdurdod Lleol yn cyflwyno cofnodion y Fforwm i'w Pwyllgorau Safonau hwy er gwybodaeth
- Roedd gan Swyddogion Monitro berthynas weithio agos trwy Gymru ac roeddent yn cyfarfod trwy Rwydwaith y Swyddogion Monitro

CYTUNWYD-

(a) Bod Swyddog Monitro Sir y Fflint yn ymchwilio i'r posibilrwydd o ychwanegu Pwyllgor Safonau Tân ac Achub Gogledd Cymru at y rhestr dosbarthu ar gyfer gwybodaeth sy'n berthnasol i Bwyllgorau Safonau.

(b) Bod pob Awdurdod Lleol yn cyflwyno cofnodion Fforwm Pwyllgorau Safonau Gogledd Cymru i'w Pwyllgorau Safonau hwy.

In addition, it was noted that Cerrigydrudion should read Cerridigion in Minute No. 4.

AGREED-

That, subject to the above amendments, the minutes of the meeting of the North Wales Standards Committee Forum held on 15 April 2011 be approved as a correct record.

9. **SETTING UP WORKSHOPS**

Although workshops will be undertaken at the Standards Conference – Wales 2011, Members felt that smaller workshops may be effectively run just on a North Wales basis.

It was suggested that workshops focusing on the various issues relating to the Code of Conduct could be held at the beginning of each meeting of the Forum. In addition, breaches of the Code of Conduct, as contained within reports from the Public Services Ombudsman could also be a topic for discussion.

It was further suggested that the workshops held at the Standards Conference could be re-run at a local level.

AGREED-

That Workshops be held at the beginning of each meeting of the North Wales Standards Committee Forum.

10. **ESTABLISHING A CONSISTENCY OF APPROACH**

In relation to information sharing the following comments and solutions were put forward:-

- The Monitoring Officer for Flintshire would investigate the possibility of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Standards Committee receiving the same information as the Monitoring Officers in relation to Standards issues
- All Local Authorities to publish their Standards Committee agendas and minutes on their websites
- In order for the public to be aware of the existence of the North Wales Standards Committees Forum, it was agreed that all Local Authorities would present the minutes of the Forum to their respective Standards Committees for information
- Monitoring Officers had a close working relationship across Wales and met through the Monitoring Officers' Network

AGREED-

(a) That the Monitoring Officer for Flintshire investigates the possibility of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Standards Committee being added to the circulation list for information relevant to Standards Committees.

(b) That all Local Authorities present the minutes of the North Wales Standards Committees Forum to their respective Standards Committees.

11. **NODI MEYSYDD GWAITH AR GYFER Y PWYLLGORAU SAFONAU**

Nid oedd unrhyw sylwadau pellach i'w hychwanegu ar hyn o bryd.

12. **MATERION HYFFORDDIANT**

Mewn perthynas â materion hyfforddiant, oedd yn berthnasol i bob Awdurdod Lleol, cyflwynwyd y sylwadau canlynol:-

- Roedd Sir Dinbych wedi darparu hyfforddiant i'r Cynghorau Tref a Chymuned trwy Sioeau Teithiol Cod Ymddygiad. Darparwyd cyfanswm o 9 sesiwn mewn gwahanol leoliadau ar draws y Fwrdeistref Sirol, gyda 2 sesiwn ym mhob ardal yn cael eu cynnal yn y pŵn a gyda'r nos. Er bod hyfforddiant wedi ei ddarparu i fwy na 100 o Gynghorwyr Tref a Chymuned, roedd wedi cymryd cryn amser ac ymdrech i drefnu a darparu'r hyfforddiant
- Roedd Aelodau Pwyllgor Safonau yn Sir Ddinbych hefyd wedi mynychu cyfarfodydd Cynghorau Tref a Chymuned a rhoi adborth i'r Pwyllgor Safonau
- Roedd yn bwysig bod Aelodau'r Pwyllgor Safonau'n cael sesiynau hyfforddiant er mwyn diweddarau gwybodaeth yn gyson, a dylid cadw cofnod o unrhyw hyfforddiant a gynhelir. Gellid defnyddio'r cofnod hwn fel tystiolaeth pe bai unrhyw un yn herio eu harbenigedd a'u hyfforddiant
- Roedd Conwy'n darparu Gweithdai Gloywi ar gyfer Aelodau eu Pwyllgor Safonau ac roedd y rhain wedi eu cynnwys o fewn ei Rhaglen Gwaith i'r Dyfodol
- Roedd yn ymddangos bod Cyngor Dinas Caerdydd wedi addasu eu Cod Ymddygiad er mwyn ei wneud yn orfodol i bob Cynghorydd Sir fynychu'r Hyfforddiant ar God Ymddygiad
- Roedd Conwy wedi sicrhau bod pob un o'i Gynghorwyr wedi cael hyfforddiant. Cyflawnwyd hyn yn rhannol trwy hysbysu Arweinyddion Grŵp o bwysigrwydd hyfforddiant a thrwy enwi'r Cynghorwyr hynny oedd heb fynychu unrhyw sesiwn
- Roedd Hyfforddiant ar y Cod Ymddygiad yn rhan o'r broses gynefino ar gyfer Cynghorwyr newydd yn y rhan fwyaf o Gynghorau. Fodd bynnag, roedd sicrhau bod Cynghorwyr oedd wedi eu hethol ers nifer o flynyddoedd yn mynychu sesiynau hyfforddi yn broblem mewn rhai achosion
- Roedd Ynys Môn wedi derbyn arian gan CLILC i ddarparu sesiynau hyfforddi ac er bod Peter Keith Lucas wedi darparu hyfforddiant nid oedd pob Cynghorydd wedi bod yn bresennol.

CYTUNWYD-

Nodi'r wybodaeth.

13. **SEFYDLU ARFER GORAU**

Mewn perthynas â sefydlu arfer gorau, gwnaed y sylwadau canlynol:-

- Roedd Sir Ddinbych wedi paratoi llyfryn ar y Cod Ymddygiad, oedd yn cynnwys siart llif, a'r bwriad oedd bod Cynghorwyr yn dod ag ef i

11. **IDENTIFYING AREAS OF WORK FOR STANDARDS COMMITTEES**

There were no further comments to add at this time.

12. **TRAINING ISSUES**

In relation to training issues, which were relevant to all Local Authorities, the following comments were put forward:-

- Denbighshire had delivered training to the Town and Community Councils via Code of Conduct Road Shows. A total of 9 sessions had been delivered in various locations across the County Borough, with 2 sessions in each area held in the afternoon and evening. Although over 100 Town and Community Councillors had been trained, it had taken a considerable amount of time and effort to organise and deliver the training
- Standards Members at Denbighshire also attended Town and Community Council meetings and provided feedback to the Standards Committee
- It was important that Standards Committee Members were provided with updated training on a regular basis, and a record should be kept of any training undertaken. This record could be used as evidence if they were ever challenged on their expertise and training undertaken
- Conwy were providing refresher Workshops for their Standards Members and these were included within the Forward Work Programme
- Cardiff City Council had apparently altered their Code of Conduct to ensure that it was compulsory for all County Councillors to attend Code of Conduct Training
- Conwy had ensured that all of their Councillors had been trained. This had, in part, been achieved by informing Group Leaders of the importance of training and naming those Councillors who had not attended any sessions
- Code of Conduct Training was part of the induction process for new Councillors in most Councils. However, ensuring that Councillors who had been elected for many years attended training sessions was problematic in some instances
- Isle of Anglesey had received funding from the WLGA to provide training sessions and even though Peter Keith Lucas had delivered training not all Councillors had attended

AGREED-

That the information be noted.

13. **ESTABLISHING BEST PRACTICE**

In relation to establishing best practice the following comments were made:-

- Denbighshire had produced a booklet on the Code of Conduct, which included a flowchart, and was designed for Councillors to bring to each meeting. It was suggested that this booklet could be circulated to members of the Forum

bob cyfarfod. Awgrymwyd y gellid dosbarthu'r llyfryn hwn i aelodau'r Fforwm

- Roedd Sir Ddinbych yn dosbarthu'r llyfryn yn flynyddol ynghyd â Chofrestr Ffurflenni Datgan Cysylltiad

CYTUNWYD-

Bod llyfryn Cod Ymddygiad Sir Ddinbych yn cael ei ddosbarthu i holl Aelodau Fforwm Pwyllgorau Safonau Gogledd Cymru.

14. GWEITHIO GYDA'R CYNGHORAU TREF A CHYMUNED

Trafodwyd yr eitem hon fel rhan o Gofnod 12 - Materion Hyfforddiant.

15. HYRWYDDO'R PWYLLGOR SAFONAU

Mewn perthynas â hyrwyddo Pwyllgorau Safonau, gwnaed y sylwadau canlynol:-

- Roedd Conwy wedi cyhoeddi erthygl ar y Pwyllgor Safonau ym Mwletin Conwy, a ddosbarthwyd i bob aelwyd yn y Fwrdeistref Sirol
- Roedd Gwynedd wedi paratoi adroddiad ar y Pwyllgor Safonau, oedd yn cynnwys ffotograffau, ac fe'i dosbarthwyd i bob Cynghorydd Sir yn ogystal ag i'r Cynghorau Tref a Chymuned
- Er mwyn sicrhau bod yr Ombwdsmon yn ymwybodol o Fforwm Pwyllgorau Safonau Gogledd Cymru, cytunwyd i anfon copi o'r cofnodion at yr Ombwdsmon ynghyd â llythyr eglurhaol

CYTUNWYD-

Bod cofnodion Fforwm Pwyllgorau Safonau Gogledd Cymru'n cael eu hanfon at yr Ombwdsmon ynghyd â llythyr eglurhaol.

16. YMATEBION A SYLWADAU YNGLYN Â PHOLISI CENEDLAETHOL

Deallwyd bod newid sylweddol yn digwydd i Bwyllgorau Safonau yn Lloegr. Er na ragwelir newid mor sylweddol yng Nghymru, disgwylir y cynhelir ymgynghoriad ynglŷn â'r newidiadau maes o law. Gallai'r ddogfen ymgynghorol fod yn rhan o'r rhaglen ar gyfer cyfarfodydd y Fforwm yn y dyfodol.

CYTUNWYD-

Bod unrhyw Ymgynghoriadau perthnasol yn cael eu cynnwys yn rhaglenni Fforwm Pwyllgorau Safonau Gogledd Cymru yn y dyfodol.

17. PROTOCOLAU AELOD/AELOD AC AELOD/SWYDDOG

O safbwynt Protocolau Aelod/Aelodau ac Aelod/Swyddog gwnaed y sylwadau canlynol:-

- O ganlyniad i ddatblygiadau ym mhrotocolau Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn, datblygwyd protocolau ar Barch Aelodau ac ar Benodi Cadeiryddion Pwyllgor.

- Denbighshire circulated the booklet annually together with the Register of Interest Forms

AGREED-

That Denbighshire's Code of Conduct booklet be circulated to all Members of the North Wales Standards Committees Forum.

14. **WORKING WITH THE TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS**

This item had been discussed as part of Minute 12 – Training Issues.

15. **PROMOTION OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

In relation to the promotion of Standards Committees the following comments were made:-

- Conwy had published an article on the Standards Committee in the Conwy Bulletin, which was circulated to all households within the County Borough
- Gwynedd had produced a report on the Standards Committee, which included photographs, and was circulated to all County Councillors as well as to Town and Community Councils
- To ensure that the Ombudsman was aware of the existence of the North Wales Standards Committees Forum, it was agreed that a copy of the minutes be sent to the Ombudsman together with a covering letter

AGREED-

That the minutes of the North Wales Standards Committee Forum be sent to the Ombudsman together with a covering letter.

16. **NATIONAL POLICY RESPONSES AND REPRESENTATIONS**

It was understood that Standards Committees in England were undergoing a radical change. Although there is a prospect of less radical changes in Wales, a consultation on changes was expected in due course. The consultation document could form part of the agenda for future meetings of the Forum.

AGREED-

That any relevant Consultations be placed on future agendas of the North Wales Standards Committees Forum.

17. **MEMBER/MEMBER AND MEMBER/OFFICER PROTOCOLS**

With regard to Member/Member and Member/Officer Protocols the following comments were made:-

- As a result of the developments at the Isle of Anglesey Council protocols had been developed on Member Respect and on Appointment of Committee Chairs.
- Denbighshire would be introducing a Self Regulatory Protocol, especially to deal with informal complaints

- Byddai Sir Ddinbych yn cyflwyno Protocol Hunan Reoleiddio, yn arbennig i ddelio â chwynion anffurfiol,
- Roedd Panel Dyfarnu yn gwrando ar achosion yn ymwneud â Chynghorwyr Cyngor Sir y Fflint ar hyn o bryd
- Gellid defnyddio penderfyniadau gan Baneli Dyfarnu fel deunydd ar gyfer Gweithdai 'Beth a Ddysgwyd' ar gyfer cyfarfod o'r Fforwm yn y dyfodol

CYTUNWYD-

Bod penderfyniadau gan y Paneli Dyfarnu'n cael eu defnyddio fel sail ar gyfer cyfarfodydd Gweithdai yn y dyfodol Fforwm Pwyllgorau Safonau Gogledd Cymru.

18. CYNHADLEDD SAFONAU BLYNYDDOL GOGLEDD CYMRU

O safbwynt trefnu Cynhadledd Safonau Gogledd Cymru, cytunwyd aros tan y byddai Fforwm Pwyllgorau Safonau Gogledd Cymru wedi ei sefydlu ers 12 mis.

Mewn perthynas â chynnal Cynhadledd Safonau Cymru yng Ngogledd Cymru, nodwyd bod y penderfyniadau ynglŷn â'r lleoliad wedi ei wneud gan y Rhwydwaith Swyddogion Monitro.

CYTUNWYD-

Gohirio trafod y posibilrwydd o Gynhadledd Safonau Gogledd Cymru Flynyddol am 12 mis.

19. DYDDIAD Y CYFARFOD NESAF

Bydd cyfarfod nesaf y Fforwm yn cael ei gynnal ar 22 Medi 2011 i drafod unrhyw faterion yn ymwneud â Chynhadledd Safonau Cymru 2011, a gynhelir ar 5 Hydref 2011.

Bydd cyfarfod pellach yn cael ei gynnal ym mis Tachwedd i drafod unrhyw faterion yn codi o'r Gynhadledd Safonau.

Os na fydd unrhyw faterion yn codi, awgrymwyd bod y cyfarfod ar 22 Medi 2011 yn cael ei ganslo.

Dywedwyd wrth y Fforwm fod Mr Barry Davies Swyddog Monitro Cyngor Sir y Fflint yn ymddeol ddiwedd Gorffennaf 2011 a dymunwyd y gorau iddo yn y dyfodol gan bawb oedd yn bresennol.

CYTUNWYD-

Bod cyfarfod nesaf Fforwm Pwyllgorau Safonau Gogledd Cymru'n cael ei gynnal ar 22 Medi 2011 am 10.00 am.

(Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 11.30 am)

- An Adjudication Panel was currently hearing cases involving Flintshire County Councillors
- Decisions from Adjudication Panels could be used as material for 'What We've Learnt' Workshops for future meetings of the Forum

AGREED-

That decisions from Adjudication Panels be used as a basis for Workshops for future meetings of the North Wales Standards Committees Forum.

18. **ANNUAL NORTH WALES STANDARDS CONFERENCE**

With regard to organising a North Wales Standards Conference, it was agreed to wait until the North Wales Standards Committee Forum had been established for 12 months.

In relation to the Standards Conference Wales being held in North Wales, it was noted that the decisions on the venue was made by the Monitoring Officers' Network.

AGREED-

That discussions on the possibility of an Annual North Wales Standards Conference be deferred for 12 months.

19. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Forum would be held on 22 September 2011 to discuss any issues in relation to the Standards Conference Wales 2011, which would be held on 5 October 2011.

A further meeting would be held in November to discuss any issues arising from the Standards Conference

It was suggested that if there were no issues the meeting on 22 September 2011 could be cancelled.

The Forum was advised that Mr Barry Davies the Monitoring Officer for Flintshire County Council, would be retiring at the end of July 2011 and all those present wished him well for the future.

AGREED-


That the next meeting of the North Wales Standards Committee Forum be held on 22 September 2011 at 10.00 am.

(The meeting ended at 11.30 am)

Our ref: PT/mm

Ask for: Marilyn Morgan

Your ref: ID/SH

 01656 641152

Date: 7 July 2011

 Marilyn.morgan@ombudsman-wales.org.uk

Howie Roberts
Chair – Standards Committee
Conwy County Borough Council
Bodlondeb
Conwy
LL32 8DU

Dear Mr Roberts

North Wales Standards Committees Forum

Thank you for your letter dated 4th July 2011. We welcome the initiative of setting up a Standards Committees Forum and look forward to attending one of the meetings in the future.

Please contact my PA, Marilyn Morgan to arrange a suitable date for me to attend.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely



Peter Tyndall
Ombudsman

PWYLLGOR SAFONAU / STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Peter Tyndall
Public Services Ombudsman for
Wales
1 Ffordd yr Hen Gae
Pencoed
CF35 5LJ

Gofynnwch am / Please ask for: **Sian Harland**

 **01492 576065**

 **committees@conwy.gov.uk**

Ein Cyf / Our Ref: **ID/SH**

Eich Cyf / Your Ref:

Dyddiad / Date: **04/07/11**

Dear Mr Tyndall

NORTH WALES STANDARDS COMMITTEES FORUM

I thought you may like to learn of what we hope will be a significant development here in North Wales. Representatives (member and officers) of the Standards Committees of each of the six Unitary Authorities and the Fire and Rescue Authority have now met twice and have decided to establish the North Wales Standards Committees Forum.

I enclose the minutes of the meetings of 15th April and 10th June 2011 which record the discussions which have taken place to date. You will see that a number of areas of common interest have been identified and there has been significant enthusiasm for further meetings.

As Chair I was asked to bring the formation of the Forum to your attention, for your interest and also with a view to your attending one of our meetings, or a specific event here in North Wales at some point in the future.

Yours sincerely

Howie Roberts
Chair - Standards Committee