

To: Chair and Members of Standards
Committee

Date: 9 December 2024

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Dear Member of the Committee,

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **STANDARDS COMMITTEE** to be held at **10.00 am** on **FRIDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2024** in **COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, RUTHIN AND BY VIDEO CONFERENCE.**

Yours sincerely

G. Williams
Monitoring Officer

AGENDA

PART 1: THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THIS PART OF THE MEETING

1 APOLOGIES

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (Pages 5 - 6)

Members to declare any personal or prejudicial interests in any business identified to be considered at this meeting.

3 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

Notice of items which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency pursuant to Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972.

4 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (Pages 7 - 14)

To receive the minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 13 September 2024 (copy enclosed).

5 PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES - 'OUR FINDINGS' (Pages 15 - 32)

To consider a report by the Trainee Solicitor (copy enclosed) on the published 'Our Findings' page on the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales website.

6 ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

To note the attendance by members of the Standards Committee at County, Town and Community Council and to receive their reports.

7 APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF DISPENSATION BY MEMBERS OF LLANDYRNOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL (Pages 33 - 40)

To consider a report (copy attached) on the application for grant of dispensation from members of Llandyrnog Community Council from the Monitoring Officer.

8 APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF DISPENSATION BY MEMBERS OF GWYDDELWERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL (Pages 41 - 50)

To consider a report (copy attached) on the application for grant of dispensation from Gwyddelwern Community Council from the Monitoring Officer.

9 POLITICAL GROUP LEADER'S ANNUAL REPORTS (Pages 51 - 66)

To receive the Group Leaders Annual reports (copies attached) from the Monitoring Officer.

10 PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES - LOCAL RESOLUTION PROCEDURES (Pages 67 - 70)

To receive a report (copy attached) on the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales - Local Resolution Procedures from the Monitoring Officer.

11 DRAFT ANNUAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE REPORT (Pages 71 - 72)

To receive the Draft Annual Standards Committee report (copy attached) from the Monitoring Officer.

12 RECRUITMENT OF NEW INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

To receive a verbal update on the recruitment of New Independent Members of the Standards Committee.

13 STANDARDS COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 73 - 78)

To consider the Standards Committee Forward Work Programme (copy attached).

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Standards Committee is scheduled for 7 March 2025 at 10am.

PART 2: CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

It is recommended in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item(s) of business because it is likely that exempt information as defined in paragraphs 12 and 13 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Act would be disclosed.

15 CODE OF CONDUCT - PART 3 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 (Pages 79 - 90)

To consider a confidential report by the Monitoring Officer (copy enclosed) providing an overview of complaints against members lodged with the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

MEMBERSHIP

Independent Members:

Julia Hughes (Chair), Anne Mellor (Vice-Chair), Peter Lamb and Samuel Jones

Town/Community Council Member

Councillor Gordon Hughes

County Councillors

Councillor Bobby Feeley

Councillor Jon Harland

COPIES TO:

All Councillors for information

Press and Libraries

Town and Community Councils

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000

Code of Conduct for Members

DISCLOSURE AND REGISTRATION OF INTERESTS

I, *(name)*

a *member/co-opted member of
*(*please delete as appropriate)*

Denbighshire County Council

CONFIRM that I have declared a ***personal / personal and prejudicial** interest not previously declared in accordance with the provisions of Part III of the Council's Code of Conduct for Members, in respect of the following:-
*(*please delete as appropriate)*

Date of Disclosure:

Committee *(please specify)*:

Agenda Item No.

Subject Matter:

Nature of Interest:

*(See the note below)**

Signed

Date

*Note: Please provide sufficient detail e.g. 'I am the owner of land adjacent to the application for planning permission made by Mr Jones', or 'My husband / wife is an employee of the company which has made an application for financial assistance'.

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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 4

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Standards Committee held in Council Chamber, County Hall, Ruthin and by video conference on Friday, 13 September 2024 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

Independent Members – Julia Hughes (Chair), Peter Lamb and Samuel Jones.

Community Council representative Gordon Hughes

County Councillors Bobby Feeley and Jon Harland

ALSO PRESENT

Monitoring Officer (GW), Deputy Monitoring Officer (SH), Trainee Solicitor (EC), Zoom Host (SW) and Committee Administrator (NH).

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Independent Member Anne Mellor.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Independent Member, Julia Hughes (Chair) declared a personal interest in Item 5 (Public Service Ombudsman for Wales – “Our Findings”) as she was a member of Flintshire County Council’s Standards Committee.

3 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

No items of an urgent nature had been raised with the Chair prior to the commencement of the meeting.

4 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on the 26 July 2024 were submitted.

Accuracy –

Page 7 (item 2) – should state Independent Member, Julia Hughes (Chair) declared a personal interest in Item 5 (Public Service Ombudsman for Wales – “Our Findings”) report as she was a member of Flintshire County Council’s Standards Committee and not a member of the Adjudication Panel for Wales as stated in the minutes.

Page 8 – (item 4) – should read the Monitoring Officer would report back to the Standards Committee at the next meeting and not Standards Committee as stated in the minutes.

Page 9 – (item 5) – should read ‘as the Chair was a member of Flintshire County Council Standards Committee’ and not a member of the Adjudication Panel for Wales as stated in the minutes.

Page 10 – (item 6) - should read that there were difficulties in hearing Councillors who attended remotely however, there was the option of deciding where to sit and there was also the offer to sit around the meeting table.

Page 11 – (item 6) - should include the Monitoring Officer sends written feedback to City, Town and Community meetings attended by Standards Committee members.

Page 11 – (item 8) - should state the new President of the Adjudication Panel for Wales was Eleri Tudor.

Page 11 – (item 8) – should state one of the six North Wales Monitoring Officers would attend a meeting and the feedback to other North Wales Monitoring Officers

Page 12 – (item 8) - should read the PSOW raised questions about the political bias and not the PSOW was keen to establish no political bias as stated in the minutes.

Page 12 – (item 8) – should read ‘The Monitoring Officer agreed to circulate the terms of reference and a copy of the Local Resolution Procedure’.

Page 14 – The conclusion of the meeting by the Chair should include thanks given to the translator present at the meeting.

Matter arising –

Page 8 – Social Media Etiquette in Council workshops – The Monitoring Officer stated that the Democratic Services manager had been working on the Council Workshop timetable for the coming 12 months and social media would be included.

Page 9 – Background Papers – The Monitoring Officer stated that it had been agreed that any references to background papers should contain a link in the body of the report or can be attached as an appendix to the report.

Page 10 – Councils for Independent members to visit (allocation reset) – The Monitoring Officer stated that he was still awaiting a response on this and would provide the committee with a response once received.

Page 10 – City, Town and Community Council new or inexperienced Clerks – The monitoring Officer stated that he had asked for a list to be circulated to all members and he would follow this up after the meeting.

Page 12 – Letter to previous Deputy Monitoring Officer – The Monitoring Officer informed the Committee that the letter had been drafted and requested the Chair sign the letter following the meeting.

Page 12 – (item 8) - The Circulation of the PSOW Terms of Reference – The monitoring Officer apologised and stated that this would be circulated.

It was:

RESOLVED: *that subject to the above, the minutes of the meeting held on the 26 July 2024 be received and approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings*

5 PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES - 'OUR FINDINGS'

The Trainee Solicitor, Elinor Cartwright, introduced the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW): Our Findings report (previously circulated).

The report covered the period from 15th July 2024– 27 August 2024.

None of the cases within the report referred to a Councillor within Denbighshire County Council.

Members of the Standards Committee recalled that the Ombudsman had previously published a 'Code of Conduct Casebook' (the casebook) on a quarterly basis which set out a short summary of matters which had been investigated by the Ombudsman and the outcome that had resulted from that investigation.

The Casebook was regarded as a useful tool in giving elected members, the public and the Standards Committees an insight into the types of complaints that were being investigated and the results of those investigations.

The Ombudsman had now ceased the publication of the Casebook and instead created an 'Our Findings' section on her website.

There were no complaints published within the 'Our Findings' section of the Ombudsman's website during the above time period.

The report also covered the period in which decisions had been made by the Adjudication Panel for Wales (APW). The APW dealt with references by the Ombudsman and appeals against Standards Committee decisions. The 'Decisions' section of the APW's website contained a summary of those decisions since April 2024. Since April 2024 there had been two decisions made to the APW in relation to references from the Ombudsman, there were no complaints against Standards Committee decisions.

Appendix 1 contained the relevant extracts from the Decisions Page. None of the cases related to a Councillor within Denbighshire County Council.

The Trainee Solicitor guided members through the two decisions raised by the Ombudsman clarifying the Tribunal Decision.

The Chair gave her thanks for the report.

The Monitoring Officer extended his thanks for the report and for the inclusion of the APW decisions which gave important detail to the Committee.

Members discussed a sanction that had been given to a Councillor by a neighbouring Council's Standards Committee. Members commented that the sanction given had the risk of giving the impression to the public that the behaviour of the Councillor was not serious enough to warrant a more severe sanction. The Monitoring Officer stated that he would raise the Committee's concerns with fellow Colleague Monitoring Officers and feedback to the Committee once a response was received.

RESOLVED: that –

- A. *the Monitoring Officer discusses with colleague Monitoring Officers, the concerns expressed by the Standards Committee about the apparent inconsistency in sanctions and*
- B. *the Standards Committee notes the contents of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales – 'Our Findings' Report*

Actions –

The Monitoring Officer to raise the Committees Concerns with Colleague Monitor Officers and feedback to the Committee once a response was received.

6 ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

Independent Member, Peter Lamb reported on the meeting of Full Council of Prestatyn Town Council held on the 11 September 2024.

Overall, the meeting was well co-ordinated but with periods of confusion, particularly during review of grant applications. On a number of occasions members were confused with what had been proposed, what they were voting for and the outcome of the vote. There was also confusion as to how to resolve the issue once a vote had occurred.

Throughout the meeting various paper handouts were provided, it was not clarified if those attending the meeting online already had copies of the handouts or that they were additional papers to those included in the agenda. The public in attendance were not offered copies of the papers; nor was there an explanation as to what the papers were related to.

During the Planning item on the agenda, a Councillor stated that they were a neighbour to the property in concern however, no formal declaration of interest was clarified or submitted.

Generally, the meeting achieved its goals, followed the agenda and most conversation was addressed through the Chair. Everyone was respectful of each other with no indication of animosity between members. Proceedings at times went

slightly adrift however, the attending public showed little concern about this. All attendees at the meeting were friendly and welcoming.

RESOLVED: *that the Standards Committee note the attendance at meetings update.*

7 DISPENSATION REQUESTS

No dispensation requests had been received.

8 TERMS OF OFFICE OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Monitoring Officer introduced a report on the Terms of Office of Independent Standards Committee Members (previously circulated).

The Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001, as amended, provided for the composition of Standards Committees and the Terms of Office of Independent Members.

A Standards Committee must have no less than five and no more than 9 members. It must have at least one member who represents Town, City and Community Councils, elected members of the County Council and Independent members. The majority of the Committee must be Independent Members.

Denbighshire's Standards Committee had seven members including four Independent members, two County Councillors and one Community Council representative member.

Independent members may be appointed for an initial term and could be reappointed for one consecutive additional term. Independent members must stand down after their second term. Of the Independent members on the Committee, three were in their second year of office. Two of those terms of office, namely those of the Chair and Vice-Chair were due to end in May 2025 and one, that of Peter Lamb, was due to end in May 2026.

Given that the Chair and Vice-Chair's terms of office was due to end in May 2025, the Standards Committee were asked to consider the recruitment process for new Independent members of the Committee. The process was prescribed by law. There must be a public advertisement, following which, there must be a recruitment panel consisting of no more than five members, one of which should be a member of the public. Earlier this year (2024), Council approved the composition of the Recruitment Panel to consist of a member of the public, the two County Councillor members of the Committee, the Community Council representative on the Committee and the Chair of the Committee. The Standards Committee was asked to consider the timing of the commencement of the recruitment process.

The Chair thanked the Monitoring Officer for his report.

Members questioned if the advertisement would include reference to the Welsh Language. The Monitoring Officer explained that the Welsh language could not be made an essential requirement for the role however, it would be noted as being desirable, the advertisement would also be bilingual.

Members discussed that it would be beneficial for newly recruited members to attend meetings to observe the proceedings and complete their mandatory training as soon as possible to avoid any disruption to the Committee's forward work programme.

RESOLVED: that the Committee notes the contents of the report and confirms the requirements for the recruitment of new Independent members.

9 CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING - OVERVIEW OF DELIVERY FOR COUNTY AND TOWN, CITY AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS

The Monitoring Officer guided members through a report regarding Code of Conduct Training for County and Town and City and Community Councils.

Appendix 1 attached to the report (previously circulated) set out the dates and attendance levels of the Code of Conduct training events that had been held since the last local government elections in May 2022. While the attendance of County Councillors had been excellent, there were disappointing levels of attendance at the various events held for City, Town and Community Councils. This did not mean that members of City, Town and Community Councils had not been trained. Many Councils were members of One Voice Wales who offered training opportunities, and they may well have availed themselves in those services.

The Monitoring Officer had however, received approaches from City, Town and Community Councils for training events for their members and they had been informed that dates would be arranged in the Autumn of 2024 for further training sessions.

The Monitoring Officer would also be offering a date(s) to clerks for them to attend training specifically for their role.

The Chair thanked the Monitoring Officer for the report and questions were welcomed from members.

Members questioned if training sessions would be delivered bilingually. The Monitoring Officer explained that he would contact the finance department to ascertain if there would be any funding available for translation facilities in some sessions.

RESOLVED: that the Standards Committee note the Code of Conduct Training – Overview of Delivery for City, Town and Community Councils.

Actions –

The Monitoring Officer to contact the finance department regarding funding for translation facilities in some training sessions.

10 STANDARDS COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Standards Committee Forward Work Programme was present for consideration and members noted and agreed the following –

The Monitoring Officer would look into Policies and Procedures that the Standards Committee would need to review and include them on the forward work programme at that time.

Recruitment of new Independent Members to the Standards Committee was to be added provisionally to the forward work programme for the Committee's 6 December meeting.

The Committees forward work programme to for the 6 December to be amended to state the Draft Annual Standards Committee Report and not the Draft Annual Standards Report as currently stated.

The inclusion of APW to be included as part of the standing item Public Services Ombudsman for Wales 'Our Findings'.

The Public Ombudsman Review of Local Resolution Processes was to be added to the forward work programme under 'Future items to be Considered'.

RESOLVED: that subject to the above, the Standards Committee Forward Work Programme be agreed.

Actions –

The Monitoring Officer to look into Policies and Procedures that the Standards Committee would need to review and include them on the forward work programme at that time.

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Standards Committee is to take place on 6 December 2024 at 10.00 a.m.

EXCLUSION FROM 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 items of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 12 and 13 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government At 1972.

12 CODE OF CONDUCT - PART 3 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000

The Monitoring Officer submitted a confidential report (previously circulated) providing an overview of complaints against members lodged with the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) since 1 April 2023.

There had been no new complaints notified to the Monitoring officer since the last meeting of the Standards Committee.

RESOLVED: *that the report be received and noted.*

13 GROUP LEADERS REPORTS

The Chair introduced the Group Leaders Reports that had been previously circulated to members.

The Monitoring Officer stated that he had received four out of five Group Leader reports, this was due to one report currently being retrieved from the system. The responses received on the reports outlined similar processes within each group, mainly details of its members and the training members had enrolled on. Each of the reports received were briefly discussed.

The Chair highlighted the need for further information regarding what each Group Leader had individually done, for example had any Group Leader needed to mentor any of their members and what discussions occurred within regular meetings of each group. It was resolved that this information would be gathered when the Standards Committee meet with Group Leaders at a future meeting. The Monitoring Officer stated that he would circulate several potential dates for the meeting to members.

To conclude the discussion, it was noted by the Committee that Group Leaders were very compliant with submitting their reports and engaging with the process.

RESOLVED: *that, subject to the above the Group Leaders Reports be received and noted.*

Actions –

The Monitoring Officer to circulate potential dates for the Group Leaders meeting to be held to the Committee.

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and contributions and conveyed her thanks to the Committee Administrators and Translator in attendance at the meeting.

Meeting concluded at 1pm

Report to	Standards Committee
Date of meeting	13 th December 2024
Lead Member / Officer	Gary Williams, Monitoring Officer
Head of Service	Catrin Roberts, Head of Service
Report author(s)	Elinor Cartwright, Trainee Solicitor
Title	Public Service Ombudsman for Wales – ‘Our Findings’

1. What is the report about?

1.1 The latest case summaries contained in the ‘Our Findings’ section of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (the Ombudsman) website.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

2.1 To inform members of the latest case summaries contained within the ‘Our Findings’ section of the Ombudsman’s website which replaces the previous Code of Conduct Casebook and the latest decisions made by the Adjudication Panel for Wales.

3. What are the Recommendations?

3.1. That the Committee notes the content of this report

4. Report details

4.1 Members of the Committee will recall that the Ombudsman has previously published a ‘Code of Conduct Casebook’ (the Casebook) on a quarterly basis which set out a short summary of matters which had been investigated by the Ombudsman and the outcome that had resulted from that investigation.

4.2. The Casebook was regarded as a useful tool in giving elected members, the public, and standards committees an insight into the types of complaints that were being investigated and the results of those investigations.

4.3. The Ombudsman has now ceased to publish the Casebook and has instead created an 'Our Findings' section on her website which can be accessed via the following link: <http://ombudsman.wales/findings/>

4.4. The 'Our Findings' section contains a search facility whereby details of cases considered by the Ombudsman can be searched for by topic, by authority, by outcome, by date, and by case reference number. The section covers all matters investigated by the Ombudsman and not just Conduct matters.

4.5. This report covers the period from 13th September – 21st November 2024. The 'Our Findings' section of the Ombudsman's website contains a summary of those cases involving Code of Conduct complaints that have been investigated by the Ombudsman, broken down by subject matter as follows:

Promotion of equality and respect	1
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4.6. The outcomes can be categorised as follows:

No evidence of breach	1
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4.7 The relevant extracts from the Our Findings page is attached for ease of reference as Appendix 1. None of the cases relate to a council in Denbighshire.

4.8 This report also covers the period in which decisions have been made by the Adjudication Panel for Wales (APW) which can be accessed via the following link: <https://adjudicationpanel.gov.wales/decisions>. The APW deals with reference by the Ombudsman and appeals against Standards Committee decisions. The 'Decisions' section of the APW's website contains a summary of those decisions since April 2024.

4.9 Since 13th September 2024 there has been one decision made by the APW in relation to references from the Ombudsman. There were no appeals against Standards Committee Decisions. The outcome can be categorised as follows:

Breach of paragraph 4(b), 4(c) & 6(1)(a) - disqualified for 3 years

4.10 The relevant extract from the Decisions page is attached for ease of reference as Appendix 2. This case does not relate to a councillor in Denbighshire.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Plan 2022 to 2027: The Denbighshire We Want?

5.1. This report has no direct impact on the Corporate Plan.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

6.1. There are no costs associated with this report.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

7.1. An assessment is not required for this report.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

8.1. There have been no consultations in respect of this report.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1. No statement is required.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

10.1. There are no risks associated with this report.

11. Power to make the decision

11.1. Local Government Act 2000

11.2. No decision is required.

Extract from 'Our Findings'

Relevant body: Newport City Council

Report date: 15/10/2024

Subject: Promotion of equality and respect

Case ref number: 202305968

The Ombudsman received a complaint that a member ("the Member") of Newport City Council ("the Council") had breached the Code of Conduct ("the Code").

It was alleged that the Member made a complaint about the Complainant ("the Complainant") to his employer; that the Member used his "Councillor" status in submitting the complaint and, by doing so, the Complainant felt the Member abused his position.

The Ombudsman's investigation considered information obtained from the Council, the Complainant's employer ("the Employer"), the Complainant and the Member.

The Ombudsman found that whilst the Member had used his title of "Cllr" in submitting his complaint, the Member's status as a councillor would have been clear from him having to document why he was choosing to make the complaint. The Complainant made comments about the Member in a public arena which were provocative and personally offensive to the Member. The Complainant made serious allegations about the Member which were personal and had the potential to be damaging for him. It was understandable that the Member perceived them as an attempt by the Complainant to defame him. The Ombudsman considered that the Member had a right to challenge and try to defend himself against such comments.

The Employer said that no weight was given to the Member's role when it investigated his complaint. Given that the substance of his complaint focused on the Complainant's comments about him, in the context of his role as an elected member, it would have been evident that he was a councillor, even if the title had not been used. In these circumstances, the Ombudsman considered that it was not unreasonable for the Member to sign off his email with his "Cllr" title.

The Ombudsman found that there was no evidence of any failure to comply with the Code under Section 69(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 2000 in respect of the matters investigated.

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Extract from 'Decisions'

Relevant bodies: Ceredigion County Council and Aberystwyth Town Council

Nature of allegation: breach of paragraph 4(b), 4(c), 6(1)(a) and 7(a).

Tribunal decision: breach of paragraphs 4(b), 4(c) and 6(1)(a). No breach of 7(a).

Tribunal reference number: APW/006/2023-024/CT

Introduction & Background

The Public Service Ombudsman for Wales ('PSOW') produced an initial Interim Report on 20 March 2023. After its receipt, the Respondent failed to respond to the Panel's correspondence of 23 March 2023 (with the APW01 and Reply to Notice of Reference Form) and the case was then the subject of an Interim Case Tribunal hearing on 10 July, with a decision Report which followed on 9 August 2023.

The Respondent was elected as a member of Ceredigion County Council and to Aberystwyth Town Council in 2012, representing the Penparcau Ward. He resigned from both positions in October 2023. He had been mayor of Aberystwyth in 2017-8, a local school governor and had volunteered at a number of organisations and clubs. He was clearly well known and had a high profile in the area.

Complaint History

Incident 1

In early October 2020, a complaint was received that the Respondent had been making 'welfare checks' on a vulnerable widow, Mrs A, who was not in his ward and therefore not a constituent. He had known Mrs A's late husband and had visited her soon after his death. Her niece had asked him not to visit again but he had not adhered to the request. As a result, the relative had contacted the Council.

Mrs A complained that he had "*pestered*" her "*very frequently*". She had become "*frightened*" and "*very scared due to the Councillor's attitude*" and had wanted it to stop.

On 2 October, the Monitoring Officer spoke to the Respondent about the allegation. He said that he would not call again and Mrs A's niece was informed, but he subsequently emailed, as if testing the request. Although he did not visit again, he did see Mrs A in a local supermarket and spoke her about her complaint then.

When interviewed, the Respondent claimed that he had not returned to visit Mrs A once he had been asked not to and admitted to having 'challenged' her over her complaint when he had bumped into her in the supermarket.

Given the Respondent's behaviour on other occasions as set out below and the clear representations that were made to the Council, the APW considered it to have been more likely that there had been an element of persistence to the Respondent's visits.

Incident 2

It was alleged that, in early December 2020, an anonymous caller telephoned the Council expressing concerns about elderly members of their family. It was alleged that the Respondent had been visiting properties in his ward during the pandemic to ensure that residents were safe and not in need of anything. Although his conduct was congratulated to some extent, the concern that was expressed was that he was

entering properties, staying for some time and socially mixing in breach of the Covid-19 rules.

The Monitoring Officer arranged for a Teams meeting with the Respondent to discuss the issues which he did not attend, but he did eventually speak to the Monitoring Officer on 23 December when he confirmed that he been making such visits and had cut lawns, mended fences and undertaken other errands and stated that his visits had all been compliant with the Covid rules then in force.

The APW did not find the evidence in support of this 'incident' particularly compelling or useful. The APW states that it was difficult to gauge the quality of the evidence which had been received by the Monitoring Officer which was reported to the PSOW as hearsay.

Incident 3

On 6 November 2020, the Council received a Multi-Agency Referral Form ('MARF') from the Police concerning an individual who complained that she had been harassed and stalked by the Respondent since September 2020. The Respondent was not known to her and was alleged to have left 'love notes' on her bicycle on eight or nine occasions, when she had left it to shop in the local supermarket. The notes indicated that he found her attractive and that he was interested in forming a relationship. He had also asked questions about her at a bus stop which she used.

The Monitoring Officer spoke to him on 23 December. The Respondent explained that he had left the notes to try to "*attract attention*", but he agreed not to contact her again. The following day, the Monitoring Officer emailed Adult Safeguarding to tell them of her discussions which was followed up by an email to the Respondent in which further safeguarding training was offered.

In light of the Respondent's position and the evidence as a whole, the Tribunal had little difficulty in concluding that he clearly had left notes on the individual's bicycle as alleged and had failed to comply with the request made of her boyfriend to cease his activity. The Tribunal also concluded that the Respondent had probably also made enquiries at a bus stop as reported. It was similar to the persistent and planned nature of his conduct in other respects.

Incident 4

Further complaints arose from the Penparcau Community Hub where the Respondent assisted as a volunteer from time to time.

It was alleged that he made inappropriate comments and conducted himself improperly in relation to a new, young, female worker and one of the female Co-Ordinators in late February. Specifically, it was alleged that he repeatedly nudged the new member of staff when they were working together, which was alarming to her and inappropriate in light of the Covid regulations which was still in force at the time.

The Respondent had also been using the Hub to visit people in their homes during the pandemic who he referred to as 'my old ladies, the ladies who vote for me'.

In addition to the specific allegations set out above, there were other complaints about him having made derogatory and offensive comments whilst out delivering food in the Hub minibus.

The Monitoring Officer and Safeguarding Manager spoke to the Respondent again and reiterated the Code of Conduct. They informed him that an investigation was ongoing.

On 23 April, the Monitoring Officer asked the Respondent not to volunteer in the community whilst the matter was under investigation. He did not reply to her email initially but, when he did, he seemed resistant to the request.

A Professional Concerns Meeting was held on 13 August 2021 it was noted that the Respondent had denied harassment during interview and that no further action could have been taken because no formal complaint had been lodged.

During his interview, the Respondent suggested that he had no recollection of any specific comments attributed to him during his work at the Hub and stated that his memory had 'blocked' his recall of the events there.

The evidence that the Tribunal considered in relation to the Respondent's conduct at the Hub was

compelling and came from a number of sources (two former Trustees, a former Manager, the Co-Ordinator and the local MP).

In broad terms, the Tribunal therefore accepted the evidence which was presented to them in relation to Incident 4 and Incidents 5 and 6 which followed.

Incidents 5 and 6

As stated above, these allegations arose from the incident which was investigated in relation to the Respondent's work at the Hub. Two female witnesses were interviewed by the Police and claimed that they had been harassed by the Respondent; he paid unwanted visits to them, sometimes at night, brought them flowers and tended to their gardens.

Although they were reluctant to make formal complaints, not only because of the Respondent's position as a councillor, but also because he lived nearby. They nevertheless wanted his conduct to stop.

The Respondent said that he could not and/or would not answer questions about those two allegations at interview without the names and addresses of those who had made the complaints.

The Tribunal concluded that the victims' accounts were likely to have been reasonably accurate.

Incident 7

This allegation concerned another young female who the Respondent had pursued with presents, cards and gifts. She had worked at a local sports club behind the bar. He started to drink there, but then started to drop off presents for her. She remembered that she was first bought a present in October 2022. He continued to make gifts, despite her saying that she did not want them. Once she had reported his conduct to her manager, he was told not to use the bar again.

The Respondent then started to visit a professional address where the woman worked during the day and continued his habit of dropping off gifts and cards. Before Christmas 2022, he dropped off a present with the gift tag which read "*All I want for Christmas is you xxx*".

The woman asked her colleagues to tell him not to visit her again. It was clear that he continued to do so, since a further Valentines gift was dropped off.

The woman reported the Respondent's conduct to the Police and it became the subject of another MARF in January 2023, the third. Again, she did not want to make a formal complaint, but did want the conduct to stop. He was told not to visit the sports club and/or her place of work again.

Matters went quiet for some time after Valentines Day 2023 until a further gift, a CD, arrived at her place of work in June with a note. Another gift arrived in July. Both had been differently addressed (under the name of a charity which she worked for) such that her colleagues accepted them thinking that they were legitimate.

In interview, the Respondent stated that he considered the woman to have been very pretty and he admitted having made the gifts.

In light of the physical evidence which existed to corroborate and support the victim's account and the Respondent's position in interview, there could have been no doubt that these events occurred as they were described.

Incident 8

In April 2022, the Respondent was banned from visiting Aberystwyth RFC because of an allegation of harassment (he had referred to a woman as a 'good pull'). In interview, he described the ban as a decision on his part to 'step back' but appeared to acknowledge that there had been an allegation to the police that he had made that comment.

The quality of the evidence in relation to this allegation was poor. The allegation turned upon the contents of a newspaper article and the Respondent's interview with the PSOW. There was no direct evidence of the words used and that part of the interview which concerned the issue was somewhat muddled.

Incident 9

In or around September 2022, a local MP, Mr Lake, received an anonymous letter about the Respondent in which it was asserted that he had been "*using his power to make his move on women*". The author said that he/she had seen "*for myself how he prays [sic] on younger women*".

The Tribunal did not consider it necessary or helpful to regard this as a separate 'incident'. The themes within the anonymous letter were corroborated elsewhere by specific, direct evidence from named individuals. The feature of it which was, perhaps, of more interest and concern was the timing; the letter arrived in September 2022 and spoke about events as if they were occurring then and/or in the recent past. The Respondent had been spoken to on multiple occasions by the Monitoring Officer, the Police, the Council's safeguarding Officers and others in relation to similar conduct over two years.

Case Tribunal's Decision

On the basis of the findings of fact, the Case Tribunal found by a unanimous decision that there were failures to comply with the Codes of Conduct as follows:

Paragraph 4 (b) and (c);

The Tribunal agreed with the PSOW's position; paragraphs 4 (b) and (c) of the Code ought to have been considered *sui generis* with (a) and read in the same context; they covered an individual's conduct when carrying out his duties as a councillor. He therefore had to have been working in that capacity and/or holding himself out as such at the time of any alleged breaches.

In relation to Incident 1, it was noteworthy that the complaint about the Respondent's conduct relating to Mrs. A had come to the authority. It might therefore have been thought that his conduct had been viewed as having arisen from his wider duties to the community as a councillor, but the Tribunal did not think so here for the following reasons.

First, the Respondent had known Mrs. A's husband before his death and his visits appeared to have emanated from that friendship. Secondly, Mrs. A also did not live in his Ward. Thirdly, the Tribunal did not see how the PSOW had come to the conclusion that Mrs. A 'had viewed his visits' as having been undertaken in his role as councillor.

On balance, therefore, the Tribunal did not consider that it could have been said he had been carrying out his duties as a councillor in respect of Incident 1.

In respect of his work at the Hub (Incidents 4, 5 and 6), the staff there all knew him as a councillor and his status appeared to have been relevant to his interactions; for example, he referred to those he made deliveries to as potential voters.

In respect of Incidents 4, 5 and 6, all of the women involved had been upset by the Respondent's conduct. The nature of his conduct towards the woman in the Incident 4 demonstrated a clear lack of respect and

constituted harassment of a sexual nature in the clearest sense. Paragraphs 4 (b) and (c) were breached. The manner in which the women in Incident 5 and 6 reported the Respondent's conduct also demonstrated breaches of those paragraphs, particularly because of the frequency and timing of his visits and some of the words used.

Paragraph 6 (1)(a);

The Tribunal determined the PSOW was correct in respect of the application of the Code, in the Tribunal's judgment; paragraphs 6 and 7 were not restricted to conduct necessarily committed whilst exercising the duties of a councillor. Paragraph 7 specifically referred to conduct committed '*in your official capacity or otherwise*'.

The PSOW contended that this paragraph was breached by the Respondent in respect of his conduct within Incidents 1, 3, 5 and 6.

It was not difficult to see how his conduct in respect of Incident 1 brought his office and/or that of the authority into disrepute since his behaviour was raised *with* the authority.

Incidents 3, 5, 6 and 7 all gave rise to multi-agency involvement; the police, safeguarding and/or the Monitoring Officer. This must have been embarrassing to the authority and readily brought it and/or the Respondent into disrepute.

Finally, the PSOW alleged that the Respondent's failure to adhere to the advice given to him by the Monitoring Officer over the many occasions that he was spoken to, amounted to a further breach of paragraph 6 (1)(a). We were not convinced that that, in itself, gave rise to a breach, but the "*widespread concerns about Former Councillor Davies in the community*" did. His letter to the Cambrian News and the consequent press report, his conduct within the community, at the Hub and sports clubs, Dyfed Powys Police's involvement in 4 of the cases and the sheer number of people involved in the Incidents referred to above, when he was such a public figure, must have served to bring his office and/or that of the authorities into disrepute.

Paragraph 7 (a);

It was alleged that the Respondent had been in breach of this paragraph in respect of Incidents 3, 5, 6 and 7.

In respect of Incidents 3 and 7, the 'advantage' that the Respondent sought to confer on himself, in the Tribunal's view, was some form of relationship with the women involved. The difficulty that the Tribunal had was understanding how it was alleged that he had used his *position* to confer that advantage. The PSOW's was that he had behaved in his personal capacity in respect of both Incidents. There was nothing in his notes and/or other communications with the women which suggested that he was attempting to use his position or status as a councillor to further his advances.

In respect of Incidents 5 and 6, whilst the women concerned had seemingly known him to have been a councillor and whilst the Tribunal found that he had acted in that role while working at the Hub for the purposes of paragraph 4, the advantage that the Respondent was attempting to confer upon himself in respect of these Incidents was far less clear. There was little within the evidence to suggest an attraction and/or an attempt to form a close relationship as in Incidents 3 and 7. The Tribunal did not consider that the PSOW had properly explained how this paragraph of the Code was said to have applied to the circumstances. Accordingly, the evidence did not enable the Tribunal to conclude that he had breached paragraph 7 in any respects here.

Case Tribunal's Decision - Sanction

The Case Tribunal unanimously concluded that the appropriate sanction in all of the circumstances was for the Respondent to be disqualified for 3 years from being or becoming a member of authority or of any other relevant authority within the meaning of the Local Government Act 20

Report to	Standards Committee
Date of meeting	13 December 2024
Lead Member / Officer	Gary Williams, Monitoring Officer
Report author	Gary Williams, Monitoring Officer
Title	Application for Grant of Dispensation by members of LLandyrnog Community Council

1. What is the report about?

1.1. This report is about an application for a dispensation made by members of Llandyrnog Community Council.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

2.1. To enable the Committee to consider the background to the request for a dispensation and the relevant legal provisions before making a determination whether to grant the dispensation.

3. What are the Recommendations?

3.1. That the Committee considers the request for a dispensation and makes a determination whether to grant the dispensation and, if so, the terms upon which the dispensation is granted.

4. Report details

4.1. The Members' Code of Conduct provides that a member of a local authority who has a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the chamber during the discussion of that matter and take no part in the consideration of that matter,

unless the member has been granted a dispensation by the Standards Committee for that authority.

- 4.2. s81(4) Local Government Act 2000 gives Standards Committees power to grant dispensations in accordance with regulations made by Welsh Ministers under s81(5) of that Act prescribing the circumstances in which they may do so.
- 4.3. The relevant regulations are the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 (the Regulations).
- 4.4. The Monitoring Officer has received an application for Dispensation for members of the Llandyrnog Community Council to actively participate in any item relating to the village Community Shop, Hub and Post Office which comes before the Council. This is on the grounds that the majority of the Community Council members are shareholders and for all to declare an interest would render the meeting inquorate. Full details of the application are contained in the submission attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 4.5. The Regulations set out the grounds upon which a Standards Committee may grant a dispensation. A copy of Regulation 2 of the Regulations is set out as Appendix 2 to this report and lists the circumstances in which a dispensation may be granted. It is suggested that the most relevant circumstances to this application are those set out in Regulation 2(a).
- 4.6. If the Committee is minded to grant a dispensation it must consider whether it wishes to grant the dispensation as requested or whether to place any limitation or restriction on the operation of the dispensation, including the length of time for which the dispensation will be in force.
- 4.7. If a dispensation is granted, any member who has the benefit of it must still declare a personal interest in any business relating to the voluntary body and declare the existence and nature of the dispensation granted.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Plan 2022 to 2027: The Denbighshire We Want?

- 5.1. The decision has no direct impact on the Corporate Plan.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

6.1. There are no costs associated with this report.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

7.1. No assessment is required for this report.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

8.1. No such consultations are required for this report.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1. Not required for this report.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

10.1. There is a risk that if this dispensation is not granted the community council may not be able to consider business related to the Community Shop, Hub and Post Office.

11. Power to make the decision

11.1. s81(4) Local Government Act 2000 as amended

11.2. Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 as amended.

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Appendix 1

SUBMISSION TO THE DENBIGHSHIRE STANDARDS COMMITTEE ON BEHALF OF LLANDYRNOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

I write to apply for Dispensation for members of the Llandyrnog Community Council to actively participate in any item relating to the village Community Shop, Hub and Post Office which comes before the Council. This is on the grounds that the majority of the Community Council members are shareholders and for all to declare an interest would render the meeting inquorate.

I attach individual details but set out below the background information:

BACKGROUND

The village of Llandyrnog had, until the covid pandemic and subsequent lockdowns, a thriving village centre comprising a shop and post office, butchers shop and three public houses. After lockdown all but the post office and one of the pubs had closed. The owners of the post office premises then gave notice of their intention to sell up and move away. Unfortunately they had few potential purchasers and at this point it seemed the village would lose this facility too. A campaign was launched to raise funds to purchase the property for the community and the individuals involved were ultimately successful in securing grant funding from Welsh Government and UK Levelling Up funds.

In June 2023 further funds were sought by means of a local “share” offer. The majority of the present members of the community council purchased shares (together with over 300 other local residents). The maximum shareholding available was £7000. The shares will not pay a dividend at any time; therefore no one can gain financially on a personal level – it was a means of helping to support the project. The shares raised a total of over £50,000.

CONCLUSION

The Community Shop, Hub and Post Office opened in recent weeks and is doing really well. However the Llandyrnog Community Council is mindful of the fact that as almost every councillor is a shareholder (albeit the terms of the shareholding means that no financial gain is possible) each should declare an interest in any business relating to the village shop. This would result in the meeting being without a quorum.

The Llandyrnog Community Council therefore wish to request the Standard Committee consider granting a joint dispensation for the named councillors to participate in discussions and vote on any agenda items relating to the Llandyrnog Community Shop. This dispensation to run for their term of office or until the next Local Government election.

STANDARDS COMMITTEE 13TH DECEMBER 2024

JOINT APPLICATION FOR DISPENSATION FOR MEMBERS OF LLANDYRNOG
COMMUNITY COUNCIL TO PARTICIPATE IN, SPEAK AND VOTE ON ITEMS RELATING
TO LLANDYRNOG SHOP POST OFFICE AND COMMUNITY HUB.

The relevant paragraph under which dispensation is sought:

(a) No fewer than half of the members of the council by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business.

Listed below are the Community Council members and details of their interest in this matter:

Mrs Gwen Butler (Chair)

Shareholder – husband also has a voluntary role in the management of the shop

Ms Jane Borthwick (vice-chair)

Shareholder

Mr Emyr Morris

Shareholder and former director

Mr Gwilym C Evans,

Shareholder

Mr Arwyn Evans,

Shareholder

Ms Elaine Williams,

Shareholder

Ms Ruth Griffith,

Shareholder

Mr Merfyn Parry

Shareholder

Mr J McGuire

Shareholder

The Members have given their consent for a joint dispensation to be sought. It would be appreciated if the dispensation (if granted) could run for the duration of the term of office or to the next Local Government election.

Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001/2279

reg. 2 Circumstances in which dispensations may be granted



Version 2 of 2

1 April 2016 - Present

Subjects

Local government

2. Circumstances in which dispensations may be granted

The standards committee of a relevant authority may grant dispensations under [section 81\(4\)](#) of the Act where—

- (a) no fewer than half of the members of the relevant authority or of a committee of the authority (as the case may be) by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business;
- (b) no fewer than half of the members of a leader and cabinet executive of the relevant authority by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business and either paragraph (d) or (e) also applies;
- (c) in the case of a county or county borough council, the inability of the member to participate would upset the political balance of the relevant authority or of the committee of the authority by which the business is to be considered to such an extent that the outcome would be likely to be affected;
- (d) the nature of the member's interest is such that the member's participation in the business to which the interest relates would not damage public confidence in the conduct of the relevant authority's business;
- (e) the interest is common to the member and a significant proportion of the general public;
- (f) the participation of the member in the business to which the interest relates is justified by the member's particular role or expertise;
- (g) the business to which the interest relates is to be considered by an overview and scrutiny committee of the relevant authority and the member's interest is not a pecuniary interest;
- (h) the business which is to be considered relates to the finances or property of a voluntary organisation of whose management committee or board the member is a member otherwise than as a representative of the relevant authority and the member has no other interest in that business provided that any dispensation shall not extend to participation in any vote with respect to that business; [...] ¹
- (i) it appears to the committee to be in the interests of the inhabitants of the area of the relevant authority that the disability should be removed [; or] ²
- [
- (j) “it appears to the committee to be otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.
-] ³

Notes

- 1 Word revoked by Local Government (Standards Committees, Investigations, Dispensations and Referral) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016/85 [reg.4\(3\)\(a\)](#) (April 1, 2016)
 - 2 Word substituted by Local Government (Standards Committees, Investigations, Dispensations and Referral) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016/85 [reg.4\(3\)\(b\)](#) (April 1, 2016)
 - 3 Added by Local Government (Standards Committees, Investigations, Dispensations and Referral) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016/85 [reg.4\(3\)\(c\)](#) (April 1, 2016)
-

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Report to	Standards Committee
Date of meeting	13 December 2024
Lead Member / Officer	Gary Williams, Monitoring Officer
Report author	Gary Williams, Monitoring Officer
Title	Application for Grant of Dispensation by members of Gwyddelwern Community Council

1. What is the report about?

1.1. This report is about an application for a dispensation made by members of Gwyddelwern Community Council.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

2.1. To enable the Committee to consider the background to the request for a dispensation and the relevant legal provisions before making a determination whether to grant the dispensation.

3. What are the Recommendations?

3.1. That the Committee considers the request for a dispensation and makes a determination whether to grant the dispensation and, if so, the terms upon which the dispensation is granted.

4. Report details

4.1. The Members' Code of Conduct provides that a member of a local authority who has a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the chamber during the discussion of that matter and take no part in the consideration of that matter,

unless the member has been granted a dispensation by the Standards Committee for that authority.

- 4.2. s81(4) Local Government Act 2000 gives Standards Committees power to grant dispensations in accordance with regulations made by Welsh Ministers under s81(5) of that Act prescribing the circumstances in which they may do so.
- 4.3. The relevant regulations are the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 (the Regulations).
- 4.4. The Monitoring Officer has received an application for Dispensation for members of the Gwyddelwern Community Council to actively participate in an item relating to a planning application in their area. A number of community councillors have connections with the applicant. The grounds for the application would appear to be that without dispensations there would not be sufficient members available to form a quorum. Full details of the applications received are contained in the applications attached as Appendix 1 to this report. Members may feel that they need additional information in order to consider these applications which may be provided verbally at Committee.
- 4.5. The Regulations set out the grounds upon which a Standards Committee may grant a dispensation. A copy of Regulation 2 of the Regulations is set out as Appendix 2 to this report and lists the circumstances in which a dispensation may be granted.
- 4.6. If the Committee is minded to grant a dispensation it must consider whether it wishes to grant the dispensation as requested or whether to place any limitation or restriction on the operation of the dispensation, including the length of time for which the dispensation will be in force.
- 4.7. If a dispensation is granted, any member who has the benefit of it must still declare a personal interest in any business relating to the voluntary body and declare the existence and nature of the dispensation granted.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Plan 2022 to 2027: The Denbighshire We Want?

5.1. The decision has no direct impact on the Corporate Plan.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

6.1. There are no costs associated with this report.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

7.1. No assessment is required for this report.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

8.1. No such consultations are required for this report.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1. Not required for this report.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

10.1. There is a risk that if this dispensation is not granted the community council may not be able to consider business related to the Community Shop, Hub and Post Office.

11. Power to make the decision

11.1. s81(4) Local Government Act 2000 as amended

11.2. Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 as amended.

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GWYDDELWERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**APPLICATION FOR DISPENSATION TO THE
STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Appendix 1

Name of Councillor	Dyfan Meirion Roberts
Address	
Ward	Gwyddelwern
Nature of Dispensation sought	The ability to speak and vote
Level of Dispensation sought (i.e. to speak only or to speak and vote)	Speak & Vote
Relevant Paragraph under which Dispensation is requested (see overleaf)	The loss of members would mean less than half of the county council would be left to vote on the matter meaning a vote would not be able to be conducted <p style="text-align: right;">Please input relevant Paragraph</p>
Details of the Prejudicial Interest	I am a first cousin to the spouse of a partner in the business and great friends with both her and her spouse which would have a business interest in the business which will be formed should planning be given. I would not gain financially out of the project proposed.
Details of any position of responsibility/control held on Council (e.g. Chairman/Vice-Chairman)	N/A

Signed: 	Date: 05/12/2-24
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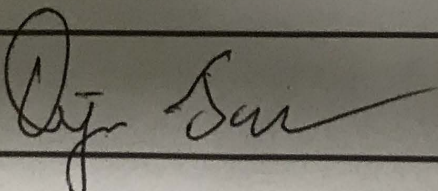
Circumstances when a Standards Committee may grant Dispensations

The Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 specifies that the Council's Standards Committee may grant dispensations under Section 81(4) of the Local Government Act 2000 where:

- (a) no fewer than half of the Members of the Council or of a committee of the Council (as the case may be) by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business;
- (b) no fewer than half of the Members of the Executive of the Council (i.e. Leader and Cabinet) by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business and either paragraph (d) or (e) also applies;
- (c) Members' inability to participate would upset the political balance of the Council, or any of its committees by which the business is to be considered, to such an extent that the outcome would be likely to be affected;
- (d) the nature of the Member's interest is such that the Member's participation in the business to which the interest relates would not damage public confidence in the conduct of the Council's business;
- (e) the interest is common to the Member and a significant proportion of the general public;
- (f) the participation of the Member in the business to which the interest relates is justified by the Member's particular role or expertise;
- (g) the registerable interest relates to business, which is to be considered by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the Council, and the Member's interest is not a pecuniary/financial interest;
- (h) the business relates to the finances or property of a voluntary organisation of whose management committee or board the Member is a member otherwise than as a representative of the Council and the Member has no other interest in that business, provided that any dispensation shall not extend to participation in any vote with respect to that business; or
- (i) it appears to the Standards Committee to be in the interests of the inhabitants of the area of the Council that the disability should be removed, provided that written notification of the grant of the dispensation is given to the National Assembly for Wales within 7 days. Such a notification should specify the Member to whom the dispensation would apply and the Standards Committee's reasons why the disability should be removed.
- (j) it appears to the committee to be otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.

APPLICATION FOR DISPENSATION TO THE
STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Name of Councillor	HŪR WYN JONES
Address	CWS 1 Lh [REDACTED]
Ward	GWYDDELBWRN
Nature of Dispensation sought	TO VIEW AND OPINION ON YNI TYN CRYN FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS AND WHAT FUTURE FOR COMMUNIT
Level of Dispensation sought (i.e. to speak only or to speak and vote)	SPRAK AND VOTE FOR THE COMMUNITY OF GWYDDELBWRN
Relevant Paragraph under which Dispensation is requested (see overleaf)	A + B
Details of the Prejudicial Interest	SECOND COUSIN TO PARTNER OF LAND OWNER SON, ON PROPOSED SITE OF BARRER CONTAINERS YNI TYN CRYN
Details of any position of responsibility/control held on Council (e.g. Chairman/Vice-Chairman)	

Signed: 	Date: 5/12/24
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Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001/2279

reg. 2 Circumstances in which dispensations may be granted



Version 2 of 2

1 April 2016 - Present

Subjects

Local government

2. Circumstances in which dispensations may be granted

The standards committee of a relevant authority may grant dispensations under [section 81\(4\)](#) of the Act where—

- (a) no fewer than half of the members of the relevant authority or of a committee of the authority (as the case may be) by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business;
- (b) no fewer than half of the members of a leader and cabinet executive of the relevant authority by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business and either paragraph (d) or (e) also applies;
- (c) in the case of a county or county borough council, the inability of the member to participate would upset the political balance of the relevant authority or of the committee of the authority by which the business is to be considered to such an extent that the outcome would be likely to be affected;
- (d) the nature of the member's interest is such that the member's participation in the business to which the interest relates would not damage public confidence in the conduct of the relevant authority's business;
- (e) the interest is common to the member and a significant proportion of the general public;
- (f) the participation of the member in the business to which the interest relates is justified by the member's particular role or expertise;
- (g) the business to which the interest relates is to be considered by an overview and scrutiny committee of the relevant authority and the member's interest is not a pecuniary interest;
- (h) the business which is to be considered relates to the finances or property of a voluntary organisation of whose management committee or board the member is a member otherwise than as a representative of the relevant authority and the member has no other interest in that business provided that any dispensation shall not extend to participation in any vote with respect to that business; [...] ¹
- (i) it appears to the committee to be in the interests of the inhabitants of the area of the relevant authority that the disability should be removed [; or] ²
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 - 3 Added by Local Government (Standards Committees, Investigations, Dispensations and Referral) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016/85 [reg.4\(3\)\(c\)](#) (April 1, 2016)
-

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Promoting Compliance With the Code of Conduct					
Report by:	Councillor Irving				
Political Group:	Conservatives				
No. of members:	7	No. trained on Code: 100%			
For the period:	31st March 2023 – 1 April 2024				
Number, Source and Level of Complaints					
	Informal	Local Resolution (Stage)			PSOW
		1	2	3	
Public (1 in total)	0				
Officers	0				
Councillors	0				
Steps taken to Promote Compliance (To Be Completed by Group Leader)					
Include matters such as:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - demonstrating personal commitment to and attending relevant development or training around equalities and standards; - encouraging group members to attend relevant development or training around equalities and standards; - ensuring nominees to a Committee have received the recommended training for that Committee; 					

My report covers the period that I have been in post, October 1st 2023 to March 31st 2024.. Member training is up to date and I have taken every opportunity at Group meetings to remind members that they should always show civility and respect to other members, officers and members of the public.

- promoting civility and respect within group communications and meetings and in formal Council meetings:
- promoting informal resolution procedures in the Council, and working with the Standards Committee and monitoring officers to achieve local resolution;
- promoting a culture within the group which supports high standards of conduct and integrity;
- attend a meeting of the Council's Standards Committee if requested to discuss Code of Conduct issues;

This has been well adhered to except that one member has attracted comment for some of his remarks and I have special efforts to guide him as to what is or is not appropriate. For one set of remarks, at my instigation, he offered the officer concerned a full and unreserved public apology. I continue to work with him and offer guidance and I do understand that some of his remarks are made out of frustration with lack of progress in matters of concern to him. I am happy to work with other group leaders and the Standards Committee to support high standards of conduct within the Council. I have warned members about quoting unverified facts and statistics in general debate .

- work to implement any recommendations from the Standards Committee about improving standards;
- work together with other group leaders, within reason to collectively support high standards of conduct within the Council.

I have met with the monitoring officer on a number of occasions and believe we have a good open and honest relationship and hope we can continue this for the good of all in the future.

I note the requirement to encourage new Committee Members to attend relevant training before taking up duties with a new Committee.

I am happy to attend and work with the Standards Committee going forward with the overall objective of maintaining and improving standards of conduct by members and will always attempt to set and lead by example.

<u>Promoting Compliance With the Code of Conduct</u>					
Report by:	Cllr Jason McLellan				
Political Group:	Labour				
No. of members:	17	No. trained on Code:		100 (Y%)	
For the period:	01/04/2023 – 31/03/2024				
<u>Number, Source and Level of Complaints</u>					
	Informal	Local Resolution (Stage)			PSOW
		1	2	3	
Public					1 complaint reached the Ombudsman who declined to investigate as the conduct complained of was unlikely to amount to a breach of the Code
Officers					
Councillors					
<u>Steps taken to Promote Compliance</u> <u>(To Be Completed by Group Leader)</u>					

Include matters such as:

- demonstrating personal commitment to and attending relevant development or training around equalities and standards;
- encouraging group members to attend relevant development or training around equalities and standards;
- ensuring nominees to a Committee have received the recommended training for that Committee;

As a group leader, and Leader of Denbighshire County Council I am aware of my duties under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 in maintaining high standards of conduct and promoting equalities. I take this duty very seriously. I remain a believer that local authorities should be more reflective of the diverse communities and people they serve.

The Labour Group is bound by standing orders drafted by the Labour Party and agreed by members which encourage and promote good conduct, diversity and equality.

I have a new Labour Whip for the group, Cllr James May. Cllr May has a background in the trade union movement, works for Unison and is completely dedicated to the promotion of equalities. I have a new Deputy Leader, Cllr Julie Matthews, who is also cabinet member who is responsible for equalities and HR. I am happy that these senior roles in the Labour Group are occupied by councillors who are completely dedicated to the promotion of equalities and good conduct.

The last year in Denbighshire has been dominated by discussions around budget cuts. Throughout this process every decision is filtered through an Equality Impact assessment as required. Cabinet decisions explicitly ask that members consider Well Being Assessments.

Members of my group and I have attended training on awareness of Gypsy, Roma and Traveler communities. Similarly, I have attended a Racism Awareness course. Both Courses were arranged by the WLGA.

I am WLGA spokesperson for Social Justice. In this role I had the pleasure of meeting Vicky Tennant UK representative to the UNHCR, to discuss a number of matters.

- promoting civility and respect within group communications and meetings and in formal Council meetings;
- promoting informal resolution procedures in the Council, and working with the Standards Committee and monitoring officers to achieve local resolution;
- promoting a culture within the group which supports high standards of conduct and integrity;
- attend a meeting of the Council's Standards Committee if requested to discuss Code of Conduct issues;

Within the Labour group itself harassment or intimidation of members for any reason, or on the basis of gender, age, sexual orientation and gender identity, race, religion or disability is unacceptable conduct and subject to disciplinary action.

Members of the Labour group must sign and abide by any codes of conduct as may be agreed by the local authority from time to time. All members must sign up to the local code within two months of it being adopted, or they cease to be a member of the council. Members of the Labour group must sign any other legal requirements relating to acceptance of office. Members must refer any wrong-doing by other members to the Group Whip and to the Local Government Ombudsman in Wales and/or local Standards Committee and the Group Whip should immediately consider appropriate action if any Labour councillor is referred to a Standards body.

There is an expectation that Labour leadership positions and in particular Labour cabinets should where possible reflect the diversity of the area represented by the local authority and to deliver at least a gender balance of leadership positions to reflect the make-up of the group. I am pleased that the cabinet is now five female members and four male members.

I am grateful that no Labour member has been referred to Standards, but if they were I as leader would ensure that they fully complied with all procedural aspects and any adverse findings would also be dealt with by the group and group whip. In respect of the issue that was referred to the Ombudsman there was a finding that there was no case to answer

- work to implement any recommendations from the Standards Committee about improving standards;
- work together with other group leaders, within reason, to collectively support high standards of conduct within the Council.

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Promoting Compliance With the Code of Conduct					
Report by:	Councillor Huw H Roberts				
Political Group:	Independent				
No. of members:	No. trained on Code:				100 %
For the period:	31 st March 2023 – 1 April 2024				
Number, Source and Level of Complaints					
	Informal	Local Resolution (Stage)			PSOW
		1	2	3	
Public	2				2
Officers	0				
Councillors	0				
Steps taken to Promote Compliance (To Be Completed by Group Leader)					
Include matters such as:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - demonstrating personal commitment to and attending relevant development or training around equalities and standards; - encouraging group members to attend relevant development or training around equalities and standards; - ensuring nominees to a Committee have received the recommended training for that Committee: 					

<p>I am personally committed to the principle that members should avail themselves of the training opportunities that are provided to them and encourage members of the group to attend relevant training. Every member of the Independent Group has received Code of Conduct training.</p> <p>All members of the group who sit on the Planning and Licensing Committees have attended the relevant mandatory training courses that have been provided.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - promoting civility and respect within group communications and meetings and in formal Council meetings; - promoting informal resolution procedures in the Council, and working with the Standards Committee and monitoring officers to achieve local resolution; - promoting a culture within the group which supports high standards of conduct and integrity; - attend a meeting of the Council's Standards Committee if requested to discuss Code of Conduct issues;
<p>I hold regular meetings with the group and we will often discuss issues around conduct. I will relay to the group any relevant messages arising from group leader meetings pertaining to conduct. The group leader meetings are attended by the CEO and Monitoring Officer. While these meetings cover a wide range of topics we do sometimes consider issues relating to conduct. We have in the past discussed issues such as the issue of some members talking or making remarks while others are speaking. As group leaders we have agreed to remind our members of the appropriate standards and I have done so within my group.</p> <p>I believe in informal resolution of issues and am more than willing to get involved in brokering local resolution of issues. These are thankfully rare.</p> <p>At our group meetings we will discuss conduct issues from time to time and I will remind members of their responsibilities particularly before potentially contentious meetings.</p> <p>I have provided some informal coaching to less experienced members.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - work to implement any recommendations from the Standards Committee about improving standards; - work together with other group leaders, within reason to collectively support high standards of conduct within the Council.
<p>I have the greatest respect for the Standards Committee and am particularly pleased that the Independent Group is represented on the committee. I welcome guidance and recommendations from the Committee and am committed to ensuring high standards in my group and across the Council.</p> <p>As noted above the group leaders do discuss conduct issues. I believe that it is important that group leaders set an example and I feel that the way in which our group leader meetings are conducted is open and constructive. While we may not agree on every issue we are able to have those discussions in a respectful way. Maintaining these relationships makes it easier to deal with difficult issues including those relating to conduct. I think we all understand our responsibility and are prepared to work together to maintain high standards.</p>

Promoting Compliance With the Code of Conduct					
Report by:	Councillor Delyth Jones				
Political Group:	Plaid Cymru				
No. of members:	8	No. trained on Code:			100 %
For the period:	31 st March 2023 – 1 April 2024				
Number, Source and Level of Complaints					
	Informal	Local Resolution (Stage)			PSOW
		1	2	3	
Public	0				
Officers	0				
Councillors	0				
Steps taken to Promote Compliance (To Be Completed by Group Leader)					
Include matters such as:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - demonstrating personal commitment to and attending relevant development or training around equalities and standards; - encouraging group members to attend relevant development or training around equalities and standards; - ensuring nominees to a Committee have received the recommended training for that Committee: 					

As group leader I am committed to fully comply with all relevant training events to support high levels of standard of personal conduct including equalities, code of conduct and other standards issues.

Group leader and Plaid Cymru group members have and will complete all mandatory training in connection with their statutory role relating to planning and licensing committees in a full and timely manner.

As group leader I am committed to ensure all group members are supported to be able to complete relevant, necessary training events associated with their roles, including mandatory training at the point of appointment to such committees. Plaid Cymru members have committed to attend optional Equalities and Diversity training arranged by Cllr Julie Matthews and this demonstrates their commitment to ensuring updated knowledge in this area.

Group correspondence has highlighted and drawn members attention to relevant equalities and standards training to be provided by the Authority or relevant outside bodies in order to draw attention and encourage all members to participate fully with such training. Group leader to liaise with relevant DCC officers should the timing of such training sessions prove to be challenging for members in order to encourage full compliance.

100 pc attendance by the party on Code of Conduct training for this term as delivered by the Monitoring Officer.

Plaid Cymru Group meetings agenda to include an item relating to required code of conduct on a quarterly basis. Agenda item designed to provide an opportunity to discuss expected standards of conduct including identifying relevant training requirements and to set the tone of expectation. Group leader to liaise with DCC officers should requests be made.

- promoting civility and respect within group communications and meetings and in formal Council meetings:
- promoting informal resolution procedures in the Council, and working with the Standards Committee and monitoring officers to achieve local resolution;
- promoting a culture within the group which supports high standards of conduct and integrity;
- attend a meeting of the Council's Standards Committee if requested to discuss Code of Conduct issues;

No complaints have been received regarding Plaid Cymru members which supports the groups values and culture in promoting civility and respect in all its dealings.

The group leader will conduct all Plaid Cymru group and individual member meetings in such a way as to foster good relationships where informal resolution pathways may be actively pursued should the need arise.

The group leader commits to attending any such meetings as requested by the Standards committee in order to discuss Code of conduct issues.

All Plaid Cymru group members are fully aware of and to my knowledge have followed the requirements to declare personal and prejudicial interests during their dealings with DCC business.

- work to implement any recommendations from the Standards Committee about improving standards;
- work together with other group leaders, within reason to collectively support high standards of conduct within the Council.

The Group leader will foster good open relations with the Monitoring Officer in order to anticipate any member- member relations that may need input and to address any issues at an early stage.

The Group leader will raise with the MO and will engage with relevant areas of training that could be of use in meeting the duty. Eg understanding the Councils Local Resolution Procedure for Member- Member complaints or issues.

Group Leaders have collectively met with the Chair of the Standards Committee – it is recognized that there is a need to maintain an arms length relationship and to work with the Committee on suggested approaches.

Plaid Cymru group leader has attended a meeting with the chair of the Standards Committee in order to discuss requirements and has cascaded to the group suggestions for improving / maintaining good standards.

Plaid Cymru group leader has worked to foster a professional relationship with all other group leaders in order to set an example to other group members and within reason to collectively support high standards of conduct within the council.

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Promoting Compliance With the Code of Conduct					
Report by:	Councillor Hogg				
Political Group:	Green Party				
No. of members:	2	No. trained on Code:			100 %
For the period:	31 st March 2023 – 1 April 2024				
Number, Source and Level of Complaints					
	Informal	Local Resolution (Stage)			PSOW
		1	2	3	
Public	0				
Officers	0				
Councillors	0				
Steps taken to Promote Compliance (To Be Completed by Group Leader)					
<p>This year we have continued to have regular weekly, informal group chats, which is easy considering we are a small group of 2 members.</p> <p>We are all up to date with our Code of Conduct training.</p> <p>We are both signed up for Equalities and Diversity Training which is soon to be delivered.</p> <p>I can feed back any information brought to the Group Leaders meetings around conduct during our meetings. For example, recent feedback from the MO around the amount of heckling at full council was discussed and taken on board. Although full council is tame compared to a House of Commons debate, we shared the view that heckling and back chat does not look professional. It was noted that high profile agenda items, such as the budget, will prompt political comments that will be met with disdain amongst</p>					

members and with no time for everyone to voice discontent at every comment made, it is inevitable that some heckling and back chat will occur during heated debate. As a group, we will strive to keep this to a minimum to keep standards as high as possible.

We discuss working relationships with officers and are happy that we both hold respect for officers and, hopefully, gain the respect from officers in the way that we seek out information and support on issues. We have no issues regarding working with officers but would welcome any feedback that would help us improve relations if necessary.

As a group leader, I continue to learn from other more experienced group leaders from the larger groups and take an interest, and discuss where appropriate, their actions to address standards issues.

I've learned, through a particular experience during full council, what it means to "speak through the chair". This seemingly obvious rule of committee meeting etiquette was a lesson best learned through experience, in my opinion, and I will take that knowledge forward with me to future committee meetings. This was again discussed at our group meetings when we raised it as a standards issue.

We have raised issues regarding conduct that we felt important through the Group Leaders meetings, such as one member's inaccurate citing of newspaper articles in full council without any proper reference to the source of information. It was not deemed necessary to take any action to prevent this type of action in council meetings and it would be up to members to decide whether any information brought up in council that no one else had prior foresight of, should influence their decisions or not. We were happy that we could raise issues of concern and discuss them with other group leaders and will continue to use this forum as a sounding board for issues and a source of advice on any further action.

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Report to	Standards Committee
Date of meeting	13 th December 2024
Lead Member / Officer	Julie Matthews Lead Member for Corporate Strategy, Policy and Equalities
Head of Service	Gary Williams, Director of Governance and Business
Report author	Gary Williams, Director of Governance and Business
Title	Local Authority Local Resolution Procedure

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1. The report relates to areas of good practice which the Public Services Ombudsman Wales has highlighted following a recent review of local authorities' Local Resolution Procedures

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1. To highlight areas of good practice identified following a review of local authorities Local Resolution Procedures by the Public Services Ombudsman Wales.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1. That the Committee acknowledges the areas of good practice highlighted by the Public Services Ombudsman Wales.
- 3.2. That the Committee supports a review of Denbighshire's Local Resolution Procedure to ensure that it reflects the other good practice identified by the Public Services Ombudsman Wales.

4. Report details

4.1. The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales has recently undertaken a review of Local Resolution Procedures to identify areas of good practice to assist local authorities in developing their procedures.

4.2. Denbighshire has been highlighted as having areas of good practice which are recommended to other authorities. These are:

- Standards of conduct/behaviour expected from members
- Appropriate determinations that can be made under an LRP

4.3. Other areas of good practice highlighted are:

- Issues that are suitable for consideration under an LRP and those that are not: Caerphilly, Swansea
- Issues that are suitable for consideration under an LRP and those that are not: Caerphilly, Swansea
- Inclusion of section on role of Group Leaders. Ceredigion, Swansea & Gwynedd

4.4. A copy of Denbighshire's Local Resolution Procedure is attached for information. A review of this document will now be undertaken to ensure that it reflects areas of good practice identified elsewhere.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Plan 2022 to 2027: The Denbighshire We Want?

5.1. This will contribute to the Council priority for Well Run High Performing Council.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

6.1. There is no cost associated with this report.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

7.1. A well-being impact assessment has not been completed as it is not relevant.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

8.1. No consultation has been undertaken.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1. A Chief Finance Officer statement is not required.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

10.1. There are no risk associated with this report.

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Report to	Standards Committee
Date of meeting	13 th December 2024
Lead Member / Officer	Gary Williams, Corporate Director, Governance and Business/ Monitoring Officer
Report author	Gary Williams, Corporate Director, Governance and Business/ Monitoring Officer
Title	Chairs Annual Report

1. What is the report about?

This report to Standards Committee is to enable the full Committee to have sight and contribute to the Chair's Annual Report, in advance of the item being presented to the full council. The draft report is attached as Appendix 1.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

It was agreed by Members of this Committee that an Annual Report should be presented on the work of the committee each year and its findings and observations, to all Council Members as part of the Committee's drive to increase standards of ethical behaviour and compliance with the Members Code of Conduct.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That Members:

- 3.1 Note the contents of the report.
- 3.2 Provide the Monitoring Officer with comments on the content in order to ensure that it accurately reflects the views of this Committee.
- 3.3 Recommend its presentation by the Chair to the Full Council

4. Report details

The draft report is attached as Appendix 1 for consideration.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

A fully functioning and representative Standards Committee which upholds the high standards expected of members helps underpin the Council's exercise of its democratic functions.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

There are no additional costs associated with this report and there are no implications for other services as a result of this report.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

A Well Being Impact Assessment is not required.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

No other consultations are considered required; this report is the consultation with Standards Committee that they are content the report reflects the Committee and Chair' perspective in respect of adherence to the Members' Code of Conduct in the County and observations in respect of probity and ethics generally.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

Not required.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

There are no identified risks.

11. Power to make the decision

The Local Government Act 2000; the Standards Committee (Wales) Regulations 2001 and the Standards Committee (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006.

STANDARDS COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

NOTE: A SHORT 30-MINUTE TRAINING SESSION FOR ALL STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEMBERS WILL BE HELD BEFORE EACH MEETING

PLEASE NOTE AGENDA TO BE CIRCULATED 1 WEEK IN ADVANCE OF MEETING

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

DATE OF MEETING	REPORT ITEMS / AREAS	REPORT AUTHOR
1 March 2024	Standing Items –	
	Standing Item: Public Services Ombudsman ‘Our Findings’	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer)
	Standing Item: Attendance at Meetings	Independent Members
	Standing Item: Dispensation Requests	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer)
	Standing Item: Standards Committee Forward Work Programme	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer)
	Standing Part 2 Item: Overview of Complaints in Denbighshire	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer)
	Report Items –	
	National Standards Forum Update	(Deputy Monitoring Officer)
	Statutory and Non-Statutory Guidance for Principal Councils in Wales relevant to the Standards Committee	(Deputy Monitoring Officer)
	Feedback from the Ethical Liaison Group meeting (provisionally scheduled for 8 December)	(Deputy Monitoring Officer)
	Comparison of Standards Committee Recruitment Panel Compilation update.	(Deputy Monitoring Officer)
	Clarification on the Elements of Statutory Guidance relating to Standards Committee, Part 2: Sections 5,6 and 7 together with Part 4	(Deputy Monitoring Officer)

	(The Schedule, Section 6 and Agenda and reports, Section 15.80 (background papers), Chairing Meetings, Section 15.138 onwards).	
	Review of the size and composition of the Standards Committee	(Deputy Monitoring Officer)

DATE OF MEETING	REPORT ITEMS / AREAS	REPORT AUTHOR	DATE ENTERED UPDATED BY
7 June 2024 (Training on the CJC's was suggested by the Monitoring Officer for the briefing session)	Standing Items –		
	Standing Item: Public Services Ombudsman ‘Our Findings’	Elinor Cartwright (Trainee Solicitor)	
	Standing Item: Attendance at Meetings	Independent Members	
	Standing Item: Dispensation Requests	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer)	
	Standing Item: Standards Committee Forward Work Programme	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer)	
	Standing Part 2 Item: Overview of Complaints in Denbighshire	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer)	
	Report Items –		
	Review of the size and composition of the Standards Committee	(Deputy Monitoring Officer)	05/03/24 RhTJ
	Political Group Leader Reports	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer) / (Deputy Monitoring Officer)	05/03/24 RhTJ
	National Standards Forum Update	(Deputy Monitoring Officer)	05/03/24 RhTJ
	Ethical liaison Meeting	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer) / (Deputy Monitoring Officer)	05/03/24 RhTJ
Overview of the register of gifts and hospitality register.	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer) / (Deputy Monitoring Officer)	05/03/24 RhTJ	
13 September 2024	Standing Items –		
	Standing Item: Public Services Ombudsman ‘Our Findings’	Elinor Cartwright (Trainee Solicitor)	
	Standing Item: Attendance at Meetings	Independent Members	
	Standing Item: Dispensation Requests	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer)	
	Standing Item: Standards Committee Forward Work Programme	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer)	
	Standing Part 2 Item: Overview of Complaints in Denbighshire	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer)	

	Report Items –		
	Joint Meeting with Town City and Community Councils	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer) / (Deputy Monitoring Officer)	05/03/24 RhTJ Deferred to 06/12/24 NH
	Terms of Office of Standard Committee members	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer) / Deputy Monitoring Officer	05/08/24 SLW
	Group Leaders Reports	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer)	05/08/24 SLW
	Code of Conduct Training – overview of delivery for County and Town, City and Community Councils	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer) / Deputy Monitoring Officer	05/08/24 SLW
13 December 2024	Standing Items –		
	Standing Item: Public Services Ombudsman ‘Our Findings’ including the Adjudication Panel for Wales (APW)	Elinor Cartwright (Trainee Solicitor)	
	Standing Item: Attendance at Meetings	Independent Members	
	Standing Item: Dispensation Requests	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer)	
	Standing Item: Standards Committee Forward Work Programme	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer)	
	Standing Part 2 Item: Overview of Complaints in Denbighshire	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer)	
	Report Items –		
	Draft Annual Standards Committee Report	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer)	05/03/24 RhTJ
	Recruitment of New Independent Members of the Standards Committee	Gary Williams	7/10/24 NH
	Public Services Ombudsman for Wales: Local Resolution Procedures	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer)	5/12/24 NH
	Political Group Leaders Annual Reports	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer)	5/12/24 NH
7 March 2025	Standing Items –		
	Standing Item: Public Services Ombudsman ‘Our Findings’ including the Adjudication Panel for Wales (APW)	Elinor Cartwright (Trainee Solicitor)	
	Standing Item: Attendance at Meetings	Independent Members	

	Standing Item: Dispensation Requests	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer)	
	Standing Item: Standards Committee Forward Work Programme	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer)	
	Standing Part 2 Item: Overview of Complaints in Denbighshire	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer)	
	Report Items –		
	National Standards Forum Update	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer)	05/08/24 SLW
	Code of Conduct for Officers	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer)	05/08/24 SLW
	Overview of the register of gifts and hospitality register	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer)	Deferred from 13/12/24 NH
	Joint meeting with Town, City and Community Councils	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer)	Deferred from 13/09/24 NH
6 June 2025	Standing Items –		
	Standing Item: Public Services Ombudsman ‘Our Findings’ including the Adjudication Panel for Wales (APW)	Elinor Cartwright (Trainee Solicitor)	
	Standing Item: Attendance at Meetings	Independent Members	
	Standing Item: Dispensation Requests	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer)	
	Standing Item: Standards Committee Forward Work Programme	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer)	
	Standing Part 2 Item: Overview of Complaints in Denbighshire	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer)	
	Report Items –		
12 September 2025	Standing Items –		
	Standing Item: Public Services Ombudsman ‘Our Findings’ including the Adjudication Panel for Wales (APW)	Elinor Cartwright (Trainee Solicitor)	
	Standing Item: Attendance at Meetings	Independent Members	
	Standing Item: Dispensation Requests	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer)	
	Standing Item: Standards Committee Forward Work Programme	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer)	

	Standing Part 2 Item: Overview of Complaints in Denbighshire	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer)	
	Report Items –		
5 December 2025	Standing Items –		
	Standing Item: Public Services Ombudsman ‘Our Findings’ including the Adjudication Panel for Wales (APW)	Elinor Cartwright (Trainee Solicitor)	
	Standing Item: Attendance at Meetings	Independent Members	
	Standing Item: Dispensation Requests	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer)	
	Standing Item: Standards Committee Forward Work Programme	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer)	
	Standing Part 2 Item: Overview of Complaints in Denbighshire	Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer)	
	Report Items –		

Future Items to be considered

Meeting T.B.C.	Joint meeting with Town, City and Community Councils	
	The Public Ombudsman Review of Local Resolution Processes	

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