

**REPORT BY THE HEAD OF PLANNING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION AND HEAD
OF DEMOCRATIC AND LEGAL SERVICES**

**Report issued under section 21 of the Public Services Ombudsman (Wales)
Act 2005 (Case Reference 201400990)**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To alert Members of Planning Committee to an investigation report of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW). This report is in two parts. The first part provides a summary of the investigation report and is anonymised. The second part of the report is Part 2 and analyses the findings and recommendations of the PSOW in more detail.
- 1.2 The summary report is attached as **Appendix A** to this report.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The main details of the case are contained within the Part 2 report. Having regard to the summary document at **Appendix A**, however, Members are directed to recommendations a) to e).

3. PSOW RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The recommendations d) and e), given the nature of these, will be covered in more detail in the Part 2 report. Comments on recommendations a) to c) are below.
- 3.2 **Recommendation a) – the Council ensures that its validation process is updated to ensure that it takes account the statutory requirements set out in Article 3 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012.**

The above relates to how Officers validate Outline planning applications to ensure relevant information required by the aforementioned legislation is provided.

Officers follow the validation procedures set out in list 2 of Appendix A(1) of Welsh Government Guide. All Officers validating Outline and other applications follow this guide ensuring relevant details are provided.

- 3.3 **Recommendation b) – the Council shares this report with the Planning Committee and arranges additional training for the Planning Committee which encompasses the failings identified in the report.**

The report is being shared with Planning Committee. One of the forthcoming “Member Training on Planning Matters” sessions organised by Officers will cover the main issues in the investigation report.

- 3.4 **Recommendation c) – the Council ensures that it accurately records reasons given for decisions taken which are contrary to Officer advice.**

Members will note that during debate at Planning Committee Officers will press Members for detailed reasons why they may propose to go against Officer recommendation. Officers will check these reasons with Members to ensure clarity before recording them.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 That Members note the contents of the summary report at **Appendix A** and the comments provided on the recommendations a) to c) above.