

DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE

HYSBYSIAD O GYFARFOD

Fe'ch gwahoddir i gyfarfod

PWYLLGOR SAFONAU

Lleoliad: Ystafell Bwyllgor 5, Neuadd y Ddinas, Abertawe

Dyddiad: Dydd Gwener, 4 Medi 2015

Amser: 9.30 am

AGENDA

Rhif y Dudalen.

- 1 Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb
- 2 Datgeliadau o fuddiannau personol a rhagfarnol 1 - 2
- 3 Cofnodion 3 - 5
Cymeradwyo Cofnodion y Pwyllgor Safonau a gynhaliwyd ar 5 Mehefin 2015 fel cofnod cywir.
- 4 Trefn Hepgor (Llafar)
- 5 Mesurau i fynd i'r afael â phresenoldeb mewn Hyfforddiant i Gynghorwyr 6 - 8
- 6 Adroddiad Blynyddol y Pwyllgor Safonau 2014-2015 9 - 21
- 7 Trafodaeth ar gwestiynau am Arweinwyr Grwp/cyfarfodydd Cadeiryddion (Llafar)
- 8 Trafodaeth ar Fforwm Cynghorau Tref ar y Cyd a'r Pwyllgor Safonau (Llafar)
- 9 Cynhadledd Safonau a Moeseg Cymru 2015 - 20 Hydref 2015 (Llafar)
- 10 Cynllun gwaith 2015-2016



Patrick Arran

Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol, Democrataidd a Chaffael

26 Awst 2015

Cyswllt: Gwasanaethau Democrataidd - 636923

STANDARDS COMMITTEE (4)

Councillors

Labour Councillors: 3

Joe A Hale	Clive E Lloyd
Phil Downing	

Liberal Democrat Councillor: 1

L Graham Thomas	
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Name	Term of Office	Name	Term of Office
Jill Burgess	19.10.2012 to 18.10.2018	Jennifer Gomes*	05.12.2008 to 04.12.2016
Gareth Evans	01.04.2015 to 31.03.2021	Margaret Williams	01.04.2015 to 31.03.2021
Meirion Howells*	01.08.2008 to 31.07.2016		

Others:

Executive	One copy
Patrick Arran	Head of Legal, Democratic Services & Procurement – Electronic
Tracey Meredith	Deputy Head of Legal, Democratic Services & Procurement
Huw Evans	Head of Democratic Services
Mike Hawes	Head of Financial Services
Democratic Services	1 Copy
Archives	
Councillor M H Jones	Chair of Scrutiny Programme Committee – public agenda pack

Total Copies Needed – 25

NOTE:

1. * Denotes that the **period of office cannot be extended further.**
2. The **term of office for Independent Members** can be for not less than 4 nor more than 6 years. They can be reappointed for one further consecutive term but that term cannot be for more than 4 years.
3. **Members of the Local Authority** who are members of the Standards Committee will have a term of office of no more than 4 years or ending at the next ordinary local government election following their election, whichever is the shorter.
4. The Standards Committee **shall not sit if the Independent Members are outnumbered by Councillors.** A Councillor shall remove him/herself from the meeting in order for the business to be transacted.

- a) Details of the prejudicial interest;
- b) Details of the business to which the prejudicial interest relates;
- c) Details of, and the date on which, the dispensation was granted; and
- d) Your signature

Officers

Financial Interests

1. If an Officer has a financial interest in any matter which arises for decision at any meeting to which the Officer is reporting or at which the Officer is in attendance involving any member of the Council and /or any third party the Officer shall declare an interest in that matter and take no part in the consideration or determination of the matter and shall withdraw from the meeting while that matter is considered. Any such declaration made in a meeting of a constitutional body shall be recorded in the minutes of that meeting. No Officer shall make a report to a meeting for a decision to be made on any matter in which s/he has a financial interest.
2. A "financial interest" is defined as any interest affecting the financial position of the Officer, either to his/her benefit or to his/her detriment. It also includes an interest on the same basis for any member of the Officers family or a close friend and any company firm or business from which an Officer or a member of his/her family receives any remuneration. There is no financial interest for an Officer where a decision on a report affects all of the Officers of the Council or all of the officers in a Department or Service.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

HELD AT GUILDHALL, SWANSEA ON FRIDAY, 5 JUNE 2015
AT 9.30 AM

PRESENT: Meirion Howells (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)	Councillor(s)	Councillor(s)
P Downing	C E Lloyd	L G Thomas

Independent Members:

Jill Burgess	Gareth Evans	Jennifer Gomes
Margaret Williams		

Officers:

P Arran	-	Head of Legal, Democratic Services and Procurement
H Evans	-	Head of Democratic Services
A Lowe	-	Councillor Support Officer

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J A Hale.

2 **DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS**

In accordance with the provisions of the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea, no interests were declared.

3 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Standards Committee held on 17 April 2015 be accepted as a correct record.

4 **MATTERS ARISING**

- 1) Minute 57 "Community / Town Councils Standards Sub Committee Merger with Standards Committee"

The Head of Legal, Democratic Services and Procurement confirmed that the legislation covering membership of the Standards Committee is The Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001. The Standards Committee (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 provide that the term of office of a member of a local authority standards committee who is a community committee member shall be no more than 4 years or until the ordinary election

of the Community Council, whichever is the shorter. The Regulations also provide for the reappointment of the community committee member for one further consecutive term provided that Community Council and Community Council association in the area are consulted prior to re-appointment.

There is therefore clear provision under the 2006 legislation for the appointment of a community committee member to any merged Standards Committee for the above term and re-appointment if appropriate after the relevant consultation. Full Council is required to make the appointment.

5 **COMMUNITY / TOWN COUNCIL STANDARDS SUB COMMITTEE MERGER WITH STANDARDS COMMITTEE (VERBAL)**

The Head of Democratic Services provided an update in relation to the Merger of the Standards Committee and Community Council Standards Sub Committee.

All responses from the Community / Town Councils had been favourable. A report would be submitted to Council on 25 June 2015 setting out the results of the consultation and a proposal for the future.

6 **STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEMBERS OBSERVING OTHER COUNCIL BODY MEETINGS PROTOCOL**

The Head of Democratic Services submitted a report in order to set out a clear protocol for the members of the Standards Committee to follow when they attend other Council Body Meetings as Observers.

The main points of the protocol were set out in paragraph 3.1 of the report.

RESOLVED that the Protocol be adopted with the following amendments:

- 1) Add "and Monitoring Officer / Deputy Monitoring Officer" after the words Head of Democratic Services (HDS)" in point (vi).
- 2) The Monitoring Officer to clarify the position of members of Standards Committee in terms of exclusion (The Monitoring Officer indicated that he did not envisage him advising a change to the Protocol (point viii).

7 **COUNCILLOR TRAINING AND ATTENDANCE**

The Head of Democratic Services presented a report to review Councillor Training and to consider ways of improving Councillor attendance at training events.

NOTED that the Standards Committee had been invited to attend the next Democratic Services Committee scheduled for 16 June 2015, where discussions would take place as to how the Standards Committee could assist in the process. It was also noted that the Monitoring Officer was presenting an update on the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales guidance to the Code of Conduct to Council on 23 July 2015.

8 **WORKPLAN 2015 - 2016**

RESOLVED that the Workplan 2015-2016 be noted.

Date	Issue
4 September 2015	Dispensation Regime (Patrick Arran)
4 September 2015	Overview of Councillor Training inc. Issues of Attendance
4 September 2015	Treating People with respect
4 September 2015	Inconsistency in Ombudsman Decisions
Various	Merger of the Standards Committee and the Community / Town Councils Standards Sub Committee (Huw Evans)
TBC	Local Dispute Resolutions
TBC	Declarations of Interest
TBC	Good governance and best practice
Aim for 4 September and 4 December 2015	Annual meetings with Political Group Leaders and Chairs of Committee (Audit, Cabinet Advisory x 5, Democratic Services, General Licensing, Planning and Scrutiny Programme)

The meeting ended at 10.15 am

CHAIR

Agenda Item 5

Report of the Head of Democratic Services

Standards Committee – 4 September 2015

Measures to Address Attendance at Councillor Training

Purpose:	To set out the outcomes of the Democratic Services Committee meeting with members of the Standards Committee held on 16 June 2015. The recommendations being: 1) To set measures to address attendance at Councillor training; 2) To Compile a list of Mandatory Training courses.
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
Report Author:	Huw Evans
Finance Officer:	Carl Billingsley
Legal Officer:	Patrick Arran
Access to Services Officer:	Euros Owen
FOR INFORMATION	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Democratic Services Committee held on 16 June 2015 included members of the Standards Committee. It was used as a forum to discuss what sanctions if any could be utilised by the Authority to increase Councillor attendance at Councillor training events. Additionally, the Committee discussed the issue of making certain training compulsory.
- 1.2 It should be noted that there is no legal requirement for Councillors to attend training despite the Welsh Government clearly moving in that direction. Training therefore cannot in reality have a mandatory effect.
- 1.3 Likewise, member development and training is within the remit of the Democratic Services Committee. The only role that the Standards Committee has in training relates to the Code of Conduct, but again there is no power of compulsion.

2. Measures to Address Attendance at Councillor Training

- 2.1 Whilst there is no legal requirement to mandate Councillors to attend training, there are things that the Council can do to promote attendance. Some Authorities utilise a name and shame approach whilst others utilise the assistance of the Political Group System.

- 2.2 At its meeting on the 16th June 2015, the Democratic Services Committee agreed that the most effective measure to encourage Councillor attendance at Councillor training would be for the Head of Democratic Services to send a monthly email to the Political Group Leaders outlining the attendance of their Political Group Councillors. The Political Group Leaders would then be encouraged attendance within the Group.
- 2.3 Additionally, it is imperative that training is offered at times that are convenient for Councillors, as such training will now be provided once during the daytime and once during the evening. Greater use of e-learning will also be used.
- 2.4 Councillor Training is based on the responses provided by Councillors from the Councillor Training Needs Analysis (TNA). It is anticipated that by providing Councillors with the training that they request rather than assuming what they want will also help in boosting the attendance figures.
- 2.5 Whilst there has been an organised Councillor training calendar in place for a number of years; there needs to be greater emphasis from the Political Groups to encourage their Political Group Councillors to attend. Additionally, Councillors must be encouraged to complete their Training Needs Analysis questionnaires in order to address their specific needs.

3. **Mandatory Training**

- 3.1 There are a number of mandatory training events currently in place within the Authority; however there is no definitive list. The Committee agreed to compile a list and recommend it to Council for adoption as the definitive list of mandatory training for Councillors. Though it must be pointed out that even if Council agrees that training is mandatory, it could only be “enforced” by political group discipline.
- 3.2 However, historically, mandatory training has been linked to an actual Committee. This is helpful as there is an easy sanction which can be imposed i.e. if you don’t attend the mandatory training then you are not permitted to sit on a specific Committee. This approach works for areas such as Appointments, Licensing and Planning. Additionally, there is a requirement to ensure that Councillors are trained in the Code of Conduct.
- 3.3 Specific examples of linked training are shown below:

Committee	Training Required
Appointments Committee	Recruitment and Selection
Licensing	Licensing
Planning	Planning

- 3.4 Over the past few years, there has been an emergence in the requirement to ensure that Councillors are trained in areas such as Corporate Parenting, Data Protection, Good Decision Making, Bias, Pre-determination and Rules of Natural Justice and Safeguarding. Training has been provided in these areas but it is not possible to enforce training in these areas.
- 3.5 The Democratic Services Committee will be recommending to Council that the following training be deemed mandatory for Councillors:
- i) Corporate Parenting;
 - ii) Data Protection;
 - iii) Good Decision Making, Bias, Pre-determination and Rules of Natural Justice;
 - iv) Interests, Gifts & Hospitality including Public Services Ombudsman for Wales guidance ;
 - v) Introduction to Code of Conduct & Standards;
 - vi) Licensing (For General Licensing and Statutory Licensing members);
 - vii) Planning (For Planning Committee members);
 - viii) Rules of Debate;
 - ix) Safeguarding Adults;
 - x) Safeguarding and Protection of Children;
 - xi) Scrutiny questioning skills (For Scrutiny Programme Committee / Scrutiny Panel members);
 - xii) Recruitment and Selection (For Appointments Committee members and Councillors involved in appointments at Council).

4. Equality and Engagement Implications

- 4.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening process took place prior to the consultation period. The outcome indicated that it was low priority and a full report was not required.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications with this report.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 Any legal implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers: None.

Appendices: None.

Report of the Head of Democratic Services

Standards Committee – 4 September 2015

Standards Committee Annual Report 2014-2015

Purpose:	This report sets out the work of the Standards Committee and Community / Town Councils Standards Sub Committee from June 2014 to May 2015.	
Policy Framework:	None.	
Reason for Decision:	To agree the Standards Committee Annual Report and forward to Council for information.	
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.	
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that:	
1)	The Standards Committee Annual Report 2014-2015 be approved and forwarded to Council for information.	
Report Author:	Huw Evans	
Finance Officer:	Carl Billingsley	
Legal Officer:	Patrick Arran	
Access to Services Officer:	Euros Owen	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Attached as **Appendix A** is the Draft Standards Committee Annual Report 2014-2015. This is submitted to the Standards Committee for approval before being forwarded for information to Council on 24 September 2015.

2. Equality and Engagement Implications

- 2.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening process took place prior to the consultation period. The outcome indicated that it was low priority and a full report was not required.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 Any financial implications are set out in the report below.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 Any legal implications are set out in the report below.

Background Papers: None.

Appendices:

Appendix A	Draft Standards Committee Annual Report 2014-2015.
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Report of the Chair of the Standards Committee

Council – 24 September 2015

Standards Committee Annual Report 2014-2015

Purpose:	This report sets out the work of the Standards Committee and Community / Town Councils Standards Sub Committee from June 2014 to May 2015.
Consultation:	Standards Committee, Access to Services, Finance and Legal.
FOR INFORMATION	

1. Background

- 1.1 The Local Government Act 2000 required the Council to establish a Standards Committee to promote and maintain high standards of conduct and probity in the conduct of Councillors of the City and County of Swansea. The Standards Committee has been in operation since October 2000.
- 1.2 This Standards Committee Annual Report covers the period from June 2014 to May 2015.

2. Membership of Standards Committee

- 2.1 During the period covered by this report there were nine members on the Committee. Five of these were Independent Members and four were Councillors.
- 2.2 Adrian Novis and Clive Walton had been Chair and Vice Chair respectively since July 2012. As the term of office for two of the Independent Members namely Adrian Novis and Clive Walton expired on 21 February 2015, two new Independent Members were appointed from 1 April 2015 namely Gareth Evans and Margaret Williams.
- 2.3 Meirion Howells was appointed Chair and Jill Burgess was appointed Vice Chair of Standards Committee on 17 April 2015.

- 2.4 The membership of the Standards Committee during the period is shown below:

Independent Members	Notes
Jill Burgess	-
Jennifer Gomes	-
Meirion Howells	Chair from 17.04.2015
Adrian Novis	Chair until 21.02.2015; Term of Office expired on 21.02.2015
Clive Walton	Vice Chair until 21.02.2015; Term of Office expired on 21.02.2015
Gareth Evans	Appointed from 01.04.2015
Margaret Williams	Appointed from 01.04.2015

Councillors	Notes
John C Bayliss	-
Phil Downing	-
Clive E Lloyd	-
L Graham Thomas	-

3. Terms of Office of Independent Members of the Standards Committee

- 3.1 The term of office for Independent Members can be for not less than four years and for no more than six years. They can be reappointed for one further consecutive term but that term cannot be for more than an additional four years.
- 3.2 The table below shows the dates of commencement and subsequent expiry dates of membership for all Independent Members of the Standards Committee. **Note:** Independent Members marked in *italics* and with “*” denotes that they are in their second term and cannot have their term extended further.

Independent Members	Appointment Terms	
	Start	End
<i>Adrian Novis</i> *	22 February 2005	21 February 2015
<i>Clive Walton</i> *	22 February 2005	21 February 2015
<i>Meirion Howells</i> *	1 August 2008	31 July 2016
<i>Jennifer Gomes</i> *	5 December 2008	4 December 2016
Jill Burgess	12 October 2013	11 October 2019
Gareth Evans	1 April 2015	31 March 2021
Margaret Williams	1 April 2015	31 March 2021

4. Membership of Community / Town Councils Standards Sub Committee

- 4.1 During the period covered by this report there were seven members on the Community / Town Councils Sub Committee. Four of these were Independent Members and two were Community / Town Councillors with one Community / Town Council vacancy. Clive Walton and Meirion Howells were appointed as Chair and Vice Chair respectively in November 2012.
- 4.2 The membership of the Community / Town Councils Standards Sub Committee during the period is shown below:

Independent Members	Notes
Jennifer Gomes	-
Meirion Howells	Vice Chair
Adrian Novis	Term of Office expired on 21.02.2015
Clive Walton	Chair until 21.02.2015; Term of Office expired on 21.02.2015
Vacancy	Since 21.02.2015. Unfilled due to proposed merger with Standards Committee
Vacancy	

Community / Town Council Councillors:	Notes
Gail John	-
Philip Crayford	-
Vacancy	-

- 4.3 The Community / Town Councils Standards Sub Committee did not meet during this period.

5. Terms of Office of Community / Town Councillors on the Community / Town Councils Standards Sub Committee

- 5.1 The legislation covering membership of the Standards Committee is The Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001. The Standards Committee (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 provide that the term of office of a member of a Local Authority Standards Committee who is a Community Committee member shall be no more than 4 years or until the ordinary election of the Community / Town Council, whichever is the shorter. The Regulations also provide for the reappointment of the Community Committee member for one further consecutive term provided that Community Council and Community Council association in the area are consulted prior to re-appointment.

- 5.2 The table below shows the dates of commencement and subsequent expiry dates of membership for all Community / Town Councillor Members of the Community / Town Councils Standards Sub Committee. **Note:** Community / Town Councillors marked in *italics* and with “*” denotes that they are in their second term and cannot have their term extended further.

Community / Town Councillors	Appointment Terms	
	Start	End
<i>Gail John</i> *	26 February 2008	26 February 2016
Philip Crayford	5 October 2012	5 October 2016

6. Meetings of the Standards Committee

- 6.1 The Standards Committee met seven times during the period as follows:

18 July 2014	9 January 2015
29 August 2014	13 February 2015
10 October 2014	17 April 2015
21 November 2014	

7. Detail of the Work undertaken by the Standards Committee

- 7.1 The following paragraphs set out the work carried out by the Standards Committee during the reporting period.

8. Dispensations

- 8.1 Three requests for Dispensation were reported for consideration.

9. The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Annual Report

- 9.1 The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (the Ombudsman) issued his Annual Report 2014-2015. A link to the full report was circulated to the Standards Committee via email on 2 July 2015. <http://www.ombudsman-wales.org.uk/>
- 9.2 Annex C of the Ombudsman report provided a Code of Conduct Complaints Statistical Breakdown of Outcomes by Local Authorities and Community / Town Councils. This is appended as **Appendix 1**.
- 9.3 There were 132 cases across Local Authorities in Wales. The City and County of Swansea had 10 cases recorded. 9 were closed after initial consideration and 1 discontinued.

- 9.4 There were 105 cases across Community / Town Councils in Wales. The Community / Town Councils within the boundaries of the City and County of Swansea had 18 cases in total; all of which were closed after initial consideration. The cases can be broken down as follows:

Community / Town Council	No. of Code of Conduct Complaints
Llangennith, Llanmadoc & Cheriton Community Council	8
Mumbles Community Council	3
Pennard Community Council	7
Total	18

10. Complaints of Breach of the Code of Conduct

- 10.1 During the period June 2014 to May 2015 the following matters were reported to the Committee for information:

a) Complaints made but not investigated by the Ombudsman under the provisions of Section 69(2) of the Local Government Act 2000

Six cases were reported to the Standards Committee where the Ombudsman refused to investigate an alleged breach of the Code of Conduct following a complaint.

b) Investigations completed by the Ombudsman and reported to Standards Committee for Information where the decision was no evidence of breach or no action taken

No cases were reported to the Standards Committee this year where the Ombudsman investigated but found that there was no evidence of any failure to comply with the Code of Conduct.

c) Investigations undertaken by the Ombudsman and reported to Standards Committee for Information where the decision was to discontinue the investigation

One case was reported to the Standards Committee where the Ombudsman had commenced an investigation and subsequently decided to discontinue that investigation.

d) Investigations under the provisions of Section 70 (4) of the Local Government Act 2000 – referred to the Standards Committee for consideration

Breaches of the Code of Conduct may be referred to the Monitoring Officer by the Ombudsman under the provisions of Section 69 (c) and 71(2) of the Local Government Act 2000 for consideration by the Standards Committee. Where there is a finding of a breach, public reports on such cases are published on the Council's website.

No such referrals have been received during the period of this report.

11. Annual Discussions with Political Group Leaders, Chairs of Relevant Committees and the Chief Executive

11.1 The annual discussions actually commenced in the previous reporting period; with the Leaders of the Main Opposition Group; the Independent Group and Conservative Group attending Standards Committee on 18 March 2014. The Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council then attended the meeting on 4 April 2014.

11.2 The Chairs of the Regulatory Committees attended Standards Committee on 18 July 2014 and the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee attended on 10 October 2014.

11.3 The comments that stemmed from these discussions were collated into recurring themes and key issue categories and reported to the Standards Committee on 21 November 2014.

11.4 These themes and issues were ranked and timetabled on 9 January 2015 so as to form the Standards Committee Workplan for 2015-2016. The issues being:

- i) Treating People with respect;
- ii) Local Dispute Resolutions;
- iii) Declarations of Interest;
- iv) Inconsistency in Ombudsman Decisions;
- v) Councillor Training;
- vi) Standards Committee attend Committees;
- vii) Annual link with Scrutiny;
- viii) Good governance and best practice;
- ix) Merger of the Standards Committee and the Community/ Town Councils Standards Sub Committee.

12. Swansea Councillor Charter & Councillor Pledge on Standards

- 12.1 At its meeting on 9 January 2015 the Standards Committee reviewed the "*Swansea Councillor Charter and Councillor Pledge on Standards*" following comments made by Political Group Leaders and Chairs of Committee that the Committee reconsider its decision to recommend to Council that the signing of the Pledge be mandatory. Having completed the review the Standards Committee resolved to maintain the status quo in that the mandatory sign up should remain. It should be noted that there is no legal requirement for members to sign the Pledge.

13. Community / Town Council Standards Sub Committee Merger with Standards Committee.

- 13.1 On 13 February 2015, the Standards Committee considered a report recommending that the Community / Town Councils Standards Sub Committee should be merged with the Standards Committee.
- 13.2 The Committee agreed with the recommendation and recommended to Council that the two bodies be merged. Note: Council considered the recommendation at its meeting on 25 June 2015 and resolved to support the merger and instructed the Head of Democratic Services to progress the issue.

14. Code of Conduct Training

- 14.1 The Monitoring Officer provided the Standards Committee with Code of Conduct training on 17 April 2015.

15. Standards Committee meeting with Community / Town Councils

- 15.1 The Committee agreed that a meeting be arranged with representatives of the Community / Town Councils to discuss various matters identified in the workplan. This meeting would take place in during 2015-2016, thereby allowing the new Standards Committee Independent Members to be involved.

16. Councillors Local Dispute Resolution

- 16.1 The Committee considered how to raise the profile of the Councillors Local Dispute Resolution mechanism and whether it could be used for Community / Town Councils and members of the public. The views of the Ombudsman were informally sought; however the Ombudsman's view was that it would not be appropriate to use it for Community Councils or members of the public.

17. Treating People with Respect

17.1 The Committee considered a report which considered how to tackle and co-ordinate the treating people with respect issue raised by a number of Political Group Leaders. The Committee suggested that specific training for Chairs and ways that the profile of the Officer / Councillor Relations Protocol could be raised and if possible, be extend to Community / Town Councils.

18. Meeting with Nick Bennett, Public Services Ombudsman for Wales

18.1 The Committee invited the newly appointed Ombudsman to address them. The Ombudsman attended on 21 November 2014 in order to present his Annual Report and also to take part in a question and answer session.

19. Reports “For Information”

19.1 A number of reports were noted by the Committee, including regular updates on the progress of ongoing Ombudsman Investigations and the Ombudsman’s Annual Report 2013-2014 together with the Ombudsman’s Code of Conduct Casebook.

20. Equality and Engagement Implications

20.1 There are no equality and engagement implications associated with this report.

21. Financial Implications

21.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

22. Legal Implications

22.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

Background Papers: None.

Appendices:

Appendix 1	Extract of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Annual Report - “Annex C, Code of Conduct Complaints: Statistical Breakdown of Outcomes by Local Authority”.
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Annex C

Code of Conduct Complaints:

Statistical Breakdown of Outcomes by Local Authority

COUNTY/COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCILS

County/ County Borough Council	Closed after initial consideration	Discontinued	No evidence of breach	No action necessary	Refer to Standards Committee	Refer to Adjudication Panel	Withdrawn	Total Cases Closed
Blaenau Gwent	1			1				2
Caerphilly	4	1						5
Cardiff	15		2		1		3	21
Cardiff	15							15
Carmarthenshire	2		1					3
Ceredigion	1							1
Conwy	2							2
Denbighshire	1							1
Denbighshire	2							2
Flintshire	1	1						2
Gwynedd	6	1			2			9
Isle of Anglesey	2		3		1			6
Merthyr Tydfil	4							4
Monmouthshire	2		1					3
Neath Port Talbot	2	1						3
Newport City			1					1
Newport City								
Pembrokeshire	5	1						6
Powys	8	2						10
Rhondda Cynon Taf	7		1		2			10
Swansea	9	1						10
Vale of Glamorgan Council	7		1					8
Torfaen	7	2						9
Wrexham		1					1	2
Total	100	11	10	1	6	6	4	132

COMMUNITY/ TOWN COUNCILS

Community or Town Council	Closed after initial consideration	Discontinued	No evidence of breach	No action necessary	Refer to Standards Committee	Refer to Adjudication Panel	Withdrawn	Total Cases Closed
Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community	4		1					5
Aberystwyth Town	4		1					5
Ammanford Town	1							1
Arthog Community		1						1
Bangor City	1							1
Bethesda Community	1							1
Bridgend Town	3							3
Buckley Town	4							4
Caerwent Community	3							3
Caldicot Town	1							1
Coedpoeth Community	1						1	2
Connah's Quay Town	2							2
Dinas Powys Community	2							2
Fishguard & Goodwick Town				1				1
Holyhead Town	1							1
Kidwelly Town	1							1
Llanarmon yn Ial Community	1							1
Llanbadrig Community	1			2				3
Llandulas and Rhyd y Foel Community	1	2			1			4
Llandeilo Town					1			1
Llandudno Town	2							2
Llanedi Community	1							1
Llanelli Rural	5							5
Llanfihangel ar Arth Community						1		1

COMMUNITY/ TOWN COUNCILS (CONTINUED)

Community or Town Council	Closed after initial consideration	Discontinued	No evidence of breach	No action necessary	Refer to Standards Committee	Refer to Adjudication Panel	Withdrawn	Total Cases Closed
Llangattock Vibon Avel Community			1					1
Llangelynnin Community	1							1
Llangennith, Llanmadoc & Cheriton Community	8							8
Llanharan Community	1							1
Llanover Community Council	1							1
Llansanffraid Glan Conwy Community						1		1
Llansannan Community	2							2
Llansanffraed Community				1				1
Llansteffan & Llanybri Community	1							1
Llantwit Major Town	1							1
Llanwnda Community							1	1
Llay Community	3							3
Mumbles Community	3							3
Ogmore Valley Community		1						1
Penmaenmawr Town		3	1					4
Pennard Community	7							7
Prestatyn Town	1							1
Rhyl Town		1						1
Sully Community	1							1
Templeton Community				1				1
Tywyn Town	7		2	1	1			11
Y Felinheli Community	1							1
TOTAL	78	8	6	7	2	1	3	105