

**Report of the Head of Legal, Democratic Services and
Business Intelligence**

Standards Committee - 7 July 2017

**MODEL LOCAL RESOLUTION PROTOCOL
FOR COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILS**

Purpose:	To update the Standards Committee on the Local Resolution Protocol for Community and Town Councils as supported by One Voice Wales
Policy Framework:	None
Consultation:	None.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that Standards Committee approve and encourage the adoption of the Model Local Resolution Protocol for Community and Town Councils.
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1. Background

1.1 The Council adopted a Local Dispute Resolution Protocol on 9 June 2011. The Protocol was recently re-adopted by Council on 22 June 2017. The Protocol provides a dispute resolution process for all Councillors which deals with Member/Member disputes. To date the Protocol has not yet been utilised.

2. Model Local Resolution Protocol

2.1 One Voice Wales have produced a Model Local Resolution Protocol for Town and Community Councils which is attached at **Appendix 1**. Issues to be considered under the process would include minor complaints between Community Councillors, minor complaints between Community Councillors and officers and Councillors alleged to have not shown respect and consideration for others.

- 2.2 Issues not to be considered would be complaints from members of the public and serious breaches of the Code.
- 2.3 The Monitoring Officer gives advice on the Code to Town and Community Councils. Resources are not available to resource the local resolution protocol and therefore it will be necessary for Town and Community Councils to operate the process themselves.

3. Public Service Ombudsman Wales

- 3.1 The Public Service Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) has on repeated occasions voiced concern about the growing number of vexatious and low level complaints made under the Code of Conduct. The introduction of the Local Dispute Resolution Protocol by all City and County Councils followed by the introduction of the two stage test now means that only the most serious of complaints will be investigated by the PSOW.
- 3.2 The PSOW has indicated his support for the Local Resolution Protocol and has advised that he would encourage Town and Community Councils to adopt the Code.
- 3.3 As with the Councillors' Code there will be a need for willing participation by Community Councillors and in the event of a lack of cooperation or breakdown during the process the default position may be a referral to the PSOW.

4. Equality and Engagement Implications

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

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 There are no additional legal implications associated with this report.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Model Local Resolution Protocol for Town and Community Councils