

MEETING	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
DATE	5th July, 2010.
SUBJECT	LOCAL PROTOCOL
PURPOSE	REQUEST THE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER THE ENCLOSED DRAFT AND PRESENT ANY RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL.
AUTHOR	DILYS PHILLIPS, MONITORING OFFICER.

1. At its meeting on the 9th February the Committee decided to request a report on the local protocol which would be a way to solve complaints of misbehaviour from a member against a member through the local procedure without taking the complaint to the Ombudsman.
2. The opinion of the Committee was that it would be advantageous to have a local protocol which would be a means of solving less serious complaints quickly and effectively.
3. I append a draft document "The Gwynedd Standard". The purpose of the document is to establish what behaviour by a member is acceptable and what is not acceptable. It is not intended to replace the Code of Conduct. Rather it is intended to sit alongside the Code of Conduct and fill the gap between behaviour which possibly in itself is not serious, but it creates unpleasantness between Council members, and behaviour that is approaching the threshold and serious enough for the Ombudsman to hold an investigation.
4. In adopting "The Gwynedd Standard", the intention would then be for any transgression to be dealt with in the same way as the local procedure for solving complaints between members and officers. The Committee is reminded of that procedure which is a three step procedure, namely the advice of the Monitoring Officer or staff, an informal meeting between the members and then the hearing before the Standards Committee. The sanction that the Standards Committee utilises is a reprimand.
5. In order to move forward it is necessary to consult on the document "The Gwynedd Standard" and then present it to full Council for formal adoption. It is emphasised that only the first draft is presented to Committee at present in order that the Committee has the opportunity of contributing towards the document before it goes to members for discussion.

RECOMMENDATION.

6. The Committee is requested to consider the document and submit any observations to Council.