



Complete Agenda

Democratic Service
Swyddfa'r Cyngor
CAERNARFON
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

Meeting

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Date and Time

11.00 am, MONDAY, 27TH JUNE, 2016

Location

Ystafell Gwyrfai, Council Offices, Caernarfon, Gwynedd. LL55 1SH

Contact Point

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(DISTRIBUTED 17/06/16)

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Membership

Elected Members (3)

Councillors

Lesley Day
Eryl Jones-Williams
Michael Sol Owen

Independent Members (with a vote) (5)

Margaret E. Jones
Jacqueline Hughes
David Wareing
Einir Young
Aled Jones

Community Committee Member (with a vote) (1)

David Clay

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

To receive any declaration of personal interest.

3. URGENT ITEMS

To note any items that are a matter of urgency in the view of the Chairman for consideration.

4. MINUTES

4 - 9

The Chairman shall propose that the minutes of the previous meeting of this committee held on 18th April, 2016 be signed as a true record (attached).

5. THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

10 - 24

To consider the report of the Monitoring Officer (attached).

6. ATTENDING AND OBSERVING MEETINGS

25

To consider the report of the Monitoring Officer (attached).

7. ALLEGATIONS AGAINST MEMBERS

26 - 27

To consider the report of the Monitoring Officer (attached).

STANDARDS COMMITTEE 18/04/16

Present:-

Elected member:- Councillor Eryl Jones-Williams.

Independent Members:- Ms Jacqueline Hughes, Mr Aled Jones, Miss Margaret Jones, Mr David Wareing and Dr Einir Young (Chair)

Community Committee Member:- Mr David Clay.

Also in Attendance: Iwan Evans (Monitoring Officer), Sion Huws (Senior Solicitor), Vera Jones (Democratic Services Manager) and Eirian Roberts (Member Support Officer).

Apology:- Councillor Lesley Day.

Mr Aled Jones was welcomed to his first meeting of the Standards Committee.

Councillor Lesley Day was wished a speedy recovery following her recent surgery.

1. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received from any members present.

2. MINUTES

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous committee meeting held on 25 January 2016, as a true record.

3. APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

Submitted – the report of the Monitoring Officer requesting that the committee considered and made a decision on two applications for dispensation from members of Tywyn Town Council in relation to discussions by a caravan site management committee which the Town Council owned, namely Ynysmaengwyn Camping and Caravan Park, as they had prejudicial interests due to their links with other nearby caravan sites.

Details were given on both applications individually, namely:-

- An application from Councillor Richard Vaughan, for permission to speak only.
- An application from Councillor Anne Lloyd Jones, for permission to speak and vote.

An application by Councillor Richard Vaughan

The Senior Solicitor further noted:-

- That the applicant could use his experience of running a similar business to provide advice and information to Ynysmaengwyn Caravan Site's Management Committee.
- That Ynysmaengwyn's site manager and his wife also attended the meetings.
- It was a matter for the committee to balance the importance of the Code of Conduct against the member's contribution to the Management Committee.

Following a discussion:-

RESOLVED to refuse the application for a dispensation on the following grounds:-

- **Whilst accepting that the member had knowledge and expertise that would be relevant and useful to the work of the Ynysmaengwyn Caravan Park Management Committee, he was able to provide this expertise because he also ran a similar commercial caravan park nearby. The interest was therefore a very substantial one, and the risk of damaging the public's confidence was correspondingly high. The Committee was not of the opinion that the knowledge and advice that he could offer was so specialised or unique that it could not be obtained from other sources.**

Councillor Anne Lloyd Jones' Application

The Senior Solicitor further noted:-

- As the applicant did not run a site with the same type of requirements or on the same scale as Ynysmaengwyn Camping and Caravan Park (a licensed site for Caravan Club members only), she was not in a situation to offer the same level of expertise to Ynysmaengwyn Camping and Caravan Site Management Committee.
- That he understood that the member was active with Mid Wales Tourism and could provide relevant feedback from this body to the Management Committee.
- It was a matter for the committee to balance the importance of the Code of Conduct against the member's contribution to the Management Committee.

Following a discussion:-

RESOLVED to refuse the application for a dispensation on the following grounds:-

- **There was no evidence that the member had unique or specialist expertise or knowledge that would be of such benefit to the work of the Ynysmaengwyn Caravan Park Management Committee so as to justify allowing her to participate in its deliberations. The Standards Committee were therefore of the opinion that public confidence would be damaged if she was allowed a dispensation in this case.**

4. SELF-ASSESSMENT AND WORK PROGRAMME

Submitted - the report of the Monitoring Officer asking the committee to hold an assessment of the Committee's work and output during 2015-16 and to consider a draft work programme for 2016-17.

Members were asked to consider the functions listed in the first column of the self-assessment and to note which assessment they believed was relevant to them using the following categories:-

Category 1 – Evidence that the committee is fully meeting the requirements.

Category 2 – Evidence that the committee meets the basic requirements, but can do more to fully comply.

Category 3 – No evidence that the committee is meeting the requirements.

The committee was also invited to add to the 'Evidence' and 'Further Action' columns and it was explained that any suggestions for further action would be fed through to the committee's future work programmes.

RESOLVED

(a) To adopt the following as the committee's self-assessment of its work (*additions to the document in italic and underlined*):-

FUNCTION	ASSESSMENT (1/2/3)	Evidence	Further Action
Promote and maintain a high standard of conduct amongst members	<u>1</u>	The Chair and Vice-chair had attended the North Wales Standards Forum to share experiences with other standards committees. Some members had attended committees, Full Council, Cabinet and Town and Community Council meetings as observers.	Continue to attend and support Continue to support, including the use of web casting
Assist the members to adhere to the Code of Conduct	<u>1</u>	Arrange Training for members of Town and Community Councils Arrange Training for Council members	Consider feedback on Training and a new programme
Advise the Council regarding adopting or amending the Code of Conduct	<u>1</u>	Arrangement had been made to circulate amended guidance on the Code of Conduct from the Ombudsman to all Council Members Observations had been submitted on elements of the Local Government Bill (Wales) 2015	Review the latest amendments to the Code
Monitor the operation of the Code of Conduct	<u>1</u>	Receive regular reports on allegations against members Receive the annual reports of the Ombudsman and the Adjudication Panel for Wales. Receive annual reports in relation to the register of interests and declarations made. Receive annual reports on the register of interests and hospitality.	Continue to monitor the consideration of alternative methods of receiving information. Consider the amendments to the Code of Conduct and how to share the changes.
Advise, train or	<u>1</u>	Members attended the	New Training

arrange training for members on matters relating to the Code of Conduct		standards conference in Cardiff and reported back. Arrange Training for members of Town and Community Councils Arrange Training for Council members	Programme
Grant dispensation to members	<u>1</u>	Two applications for dispensations were handled, from members of Town and Community Councils. Conduct and overview of the system to ensure consistency and propriety.	
Deal with reports of case tribunals and any reports from the Monitoring Officer on matters referred by the Ombudsman	<u>1</u>	One hearing was held during 2015-16	
Authorise the Monitoring Officer to pay allowances to persons assisting with an investigation	<u>(Nothing to measure)</u>	No occasion to pay such an allowance had arisen	
Exercise the above functions in relation to community councils	<u>2</u>	A training session for community council clerks had been held in October 2013 The Committee's annual report had been sent to all community councils. The opinion of community councils had been sought on training based on the Code and good governance. Subsequent training had been held in four centres.	Alternative Training programme. It was, however, necessary to produce a model local resolution procedure for use by community councils.

(b) to include a footnote to the self-assessment including some statistics on attendance at the training and stating, bearing in mind that as members did not have to attend the Standards Committee was of the view that it had achieved its requirements successfully in assisting members to adhere to the Code of Conduct, and that councillors should take the training mores seriously.

(c) To approve the following work programme for 2016/17:-**27 June 2016**

- Annual Report
- Allegations against members
- Review the arrangements for members to attend committees and community councils - lessons learnt. (*Members were asked to consider, between now and June, how to do this.*)

3 October 2016

- The Ombudsman's Annual Report
- Allegations against members
- Local Resolution Procedure for Community Councils
- Protocols review

23 January 2017

- Gifts and hospitality register
- Declaration of Interests Register
- Adjudication Panel's Annual Report
- Allegations against members

27 March 2017

- Self-Assessment and Work Programme
- Training
- Preparation for the 2017 election - raise town and community clerks' awareness of expectations upon them regarding the provision of information to prospective councillors about the requirements of the Code of Conduct.

5. AMENDMENTS TO THE MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

Submitted - the report of the Monitoring Officer asking the committee to note amendments to some key elements of the existing Code of Conduct, following the introduction of the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) (Wales) (Amendment) Order 2016 on 1 April 2016. The committee was also requested to consider the implications of the changes for town and community councils.

It was explained that the full Council would be required to adopt the amended Code of Conduct.

RESOLVED

- (a) To note the amendments to the Members' Code of Conduct.**
(b) To write to community and town council clerks to draw their attention to the amendments and the actions required in response.

6. REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Submitted – the report of the Monitoring Officer, noting that it was now mandatory for the Council to publish the Register of Members' Interests electronically and providing an update on the process.

RESOLVED to note the report.

7. ALLEGATIONS AGAINST MEMBERS

Submitted, for information – the report of the Monitoring Officer on formal complaints made against members.

RESOLVED to note the report.

The meeting commenced at 11.00 am and concluded at 12.10 pm

CHAIRMAN

Agenda Item 5

Committee	Standards Committee
Date :	29 June 2016
Title	The Standards Committee's Annual Report 2015-16
Author	Monitoring Officer
Action :	Suggestions and approval

Background

1. The Standards Committee has decided to publish an annual report and that it should be presented to a meeting of the full Council. This will act as a method of raising the Committee's profile and of promoting its work.
2. I attach, for the Committee's attention a draft of the Annual Report for the period from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016.
3. The Committee is asked for its approval of the report and to consider how it should be presented and distributed.

Recommendations

4. To approve the Committee's Annual Report.

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
GWYNEDD COUNCIL
STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

2015 - 2016

FOREWORD BY THE CHAIR

[to follow]

Dr Einir Young
Chair of the Standards Committee

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FOREWORD BY THE MONITORING OFFICER

[to follow]

**Iwan Evans
Monitoring Officer
Gwynedd Council**

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INTRODUCTION

The Committee was established in 2001 under the Local Government Act 2000. The main role of the Committee is to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by the councillors and co-opted members of Gwynedd Council, and community and town councils in Gwynedd. It does so in many ways:

- Assisting the councillors and co-opted members to follow the Members' Code of Conduct
- Advising the authority regarding adopting or amending the Members' Code of Conduct
- Monitoring the implementation of the Members' Code of Conduct
- Advising, training or arranging training for councillors and co-opted members on matters relating to the Code of Conduct
- Determining complaints referred to it by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales that members have breached the Code of Conduct
- Considering applications made by members for dispensations to allow them to participate in discussions despite them having a prejudicial interest under the Code
- Considering complaints referred to it under Gwynedd Council's local resolution procedure.
- Overseeing the Gwynedd Council Members Gifts and Hospitality Policy

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Though the Standards Committee is one of the committees of Gwynedd Council, the majority of its membership does not have any connection with the Council or local government ('Independent Members'). It also has a member who represents the interests of the community councils ('Community Committee Member'), as well as three elected members from Gwynedd Council. The Chair and Vice-chair of the Committee must be Independent Members.

Independent Members

Linda Byrne (member from 2012 - 2015)

Linda has lived in north Wales for ten years and now works at the Citizens Advice Bureau in Caernarfon as a volunteer. Her husband is Welsh and 3 of her grandchildren are Welsh speaking. She has lectured in colleges of further education in the north east of England and in Wales, before becoming a Student Disability Adviser at Durham University and subsequently Bangor University. She served as a Town Councillor for six years and a Borough Councillor for eight years in Sedgfield, Co. Durham.

Margaret E Jones (member since 2012)

Originally from Llandrillo yn Rhos, Margaret has spent most of her life in Chwilog. She taught at Ysgol Abersoch for 32 years, including 14 as headmistress. She is a deacon in Eglwys yr Annibynwyr Siloh, Chwilog, was Chairman of the Council of the Union of Welsh Independents for 3 years and is also a former President of the Union. She was a member of Gwynedd Community Health Council and Vice Chairman until the reorganisation in 2010. She is also Chairman of the Chwilog Eisteddfod.

Dr Einir Young (member since 2012)

Einir is Director of Sustainability at Bangor University and her Department is in the process of being restructured to take a lead as the corporate focal point for sustainable development at the University. One of Einir's main interests is to facilitate discussion around the conflicts that can arise from trying to strike the balance between economic, social and environmental considerations in every decision we make as businesses, organisations and individuals. This is becoming an increasingly important consideration in Wales in the wake of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Many bodies now have a statutory duty to adopt the principle of sustainable development in all their decisions. Maintaining standards is as important to sustainability as recycling and saving energy and she welcomes the opportunity to contribute to and chair Gwynedd's Standards Committee.

Jacqueline Hughes (member since 2015)

Jackie lives in Nantlle with her husband Ian, 3 daughters, grand daughter and a very lively dog. Originally from the Wirral, she qualified as a diagnostic radiographer in 1987 after studying at Guys Hospital School of Radiography. After settling in North Wales with her young family, she joined the staff at Ysbyty Gwynedd. Jackie's career in Bangor has advanced both as a radiographer and as an industrial relations representative. She is currently the Staff Side Chair for the Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board as well as being the local society representative for most of the radiographers in North Wales. She has been President of the Society and College of Radiographers and was instrumental in developing the response to the Francis Report, and subsequently a new code of conduct for radiographers. She believes that any one working in public life must maintain a high level of personal standards in order to be credible to the public.

David Wareing (member since 2015)

In 2014 David relocated from Lancashire to Groeslon following his retirement from Merseyside Police. He served for 26 years in a variety of roles with his last posting being to the Force Operations Department at HQ. This position involved the planning and delivery of large-scale public events, public safety during major Police operations and the reduction of police support to outside agencies through greater partnership working. David specialised in risk assessment and ensuring compliance of relevant Health and Safety legislation working within the legal framework. David represented Merseyside Police on all five Safety Advisory Groups that covered the Force Area. He firmly believes that the actions of those in public office must be both transparent and accountable.

Aled Jones (member since 2016)

[Details to be added]

Community Committee Member

Councillor David Clay (member since 2008)

David has been an elected member of Barmouth Town Council for 29 years and has held the position of Chair on 4 separate occasions. He is past Chair of the Meirionnydd Area Committee of One Voice Wales. Now retired, he was an hotelier in Barmouth for 30 years and was an active member of Mid Wales Tourism Council and in later years a Director of Mid Wales Tourism Partnership.

Gwynedd Council Members

Councillor Eryl Jones-Williams (member since 2011)

Eryl is a semi-retired freelance journalist who has represented Dyffryn Ardudwy and Talybont on Gwynedd Council since 2008. He is also a long-standing town and community councillor and has served as both Mayor and Chairman. He takes an active part in disability rights and is vice-chairman of the Meirionnydd Access Group as well as a member of the South Snowdonia Access Forum and the Betsi Cadwalader University NHS Community Health Council. He is currently chairman of the Gwynedd Licensing Committee, where is able to draw on his experience as a former licensee. He is also the Carers' Champion for Gwynedd. A former Welsh Football referee his hobbies includes golf at Royal St David's Harlech and Dolgellau.

Councillor Michael Sol Owen (member since 2012)

Michael lives in Pwllheli and has represented North Pwllheli on Gwynedd Council since May 2012. He holds a degree in Physics and Material Science and was managing director of a company in Pwllheli and also worked as a business consultant for the Assembly. He has been a member of Pwllheli Town Council for over 30 years and is chairman of the Pwllheli Youth Project charity. Currently he is Chair of Gwynedd Council's Planning Committee and also serves on the Management Board of Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd.

Councillor Lesley Day (member since 2014)

Les has been a Gwynedd Councillor since May 2012 and is the current Chair of the Democratic Services Committee. She has been a Bangor City Councillor since 1991 and is a past mayor, representing the Garth Ward in Bangor. She is a former member of Arfon Borough Council. Les' qualifications, career and hobby are all local government. She gained her local government public admin qualifications whilst working for Surrey County Council. Upon returning to her home town of Bangor she gained her local government financial qualifications whilst working for Gwynedd County Council. Les transferred to Conwy County Borough Council on reorganisation in 1996. Les is the Chairman of Garth Community Centre and a governor of Ysgol Hirael.

The Monitoring Officer

The Council's Monitoring Officer, Iwan Evans, along with officers from the Legal Service and the Democratic Service support the Standards Committee in its work. The Monitoring Officer has a statutory role to ensure that the Council, its members and its officers act appropriately and lawfully.

Contact Details

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- Sion Huws, Senior Solicitor (Corporate).
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THE COMMITTEE'S WORK DURING 2015-2016

The Committee's work over the year has included the following (the Committee's full work programme can be seen in **Appendix 1**):

Cases heard by the Standards Committee

Hearings were held to consider one complaint that elected members had breached the Code of Conduct.

Councillor Julian Kirkham, Arthog Community Council

Censure for breaching paragraph 6(1) (a) of the Code of Conduct (not to behave in a way which brings a member's office or the authority into disrepute)

Other Complaints

The Committee is also informed of those complaints not referred to it for decision. Summaries can be found in **Appendix 2**.

Dispensations

The Code of Conduct for Members provides that a councillor cannot participate in a discussion if he/she has a 'prejudicial interest'. However, a member has a right to apply to the Committee for permission to participate despite having this interest, i.e. dispensation.

The Committee considered two applications for dispensation during this period. Both applications were turned down.

Training on the Code of Conduct

The Committee decided that training on the Code of Conduct should be offered to members and clerks of the county's community and town councils. Four sessions were held in October 2015, in Pwllheli, Caernarfon, Dolgellau and Bala. The training was given by the Monitoring Officer and the Senior Solicitor (Corporate) and representatives from 30 of the 64 town and community councils attended.

North Wales Standards Committee Forum

The North Wales Standards Committee Forum gives representatives of all north Wales authorities' standards committees the opportunity to meet. The purpose of the forum is to enable the area's standards committees to discuss and share ideas, good practices and resources and also provide a joint opinion on a national level. The Chair and Vic—chair of the Committee attend the meetings.

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THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE'S WORK PROGRAMME 2016-16

13 April 2015

- Hearing to decide on a complaint against an elected member

20 April 2015

- Undertaking Self-Assessment
- Considering the Annual Report of the Wales Adjudication Panel
- Receiving the minutes of the North Wales Standards Committee Forum

29 September 2015

- Approving the Standards Committee's Annual Report for 2014/15
- Considering the amended Ombudsman's Guidance on the Code of Conduct
- Drawing up a Work Programme for the year

5 October 2015

- Deciding on two applications for dispensations
- Receiving a report from the Council's Senior Manager - Revenue & Risk, on the Council's Governance Framework
- Considering the Annual Report of the Ombudsman

25 January 2016

- Considering the Local Government (Wales) Bill and submitting observations to be considered as part of the Council's corporate response to the Welsh Government's consultation
- Receiving a report on the Standards Conference 2015
- Consideration of members of the Committee observing meetings of the Council's committee meetings and those of community and town councils

The Committee was informed of the following decisions by the Ombudsman in relation to allegations that county and community and town councillors had breached the Code of Conduct:

Allegation	Decision
Complaint that a community councillor failed to declare an interest.	No investigation. No evidence that councillor was acting in his capacity as a councillor at the time.
That a councillor had failed to fulfil the financial obligations of a contract and was abusive to the complainant. That he impersonated another person and improperly traded his contracts through another person.	No investigation. Insufficient evidence provided to substantiate the councillor's involvement. The Ombudsman will not investigate unless there is reasonably strong evidence to suggest a member had breached the code.
That a councillor had sent an e-mail referring to members of the public present at a Planning Committee containing language that was racist and offensive.	No investigation. He did not believe the words used to be racist considering the context in which they were used. However it was likely that their use could be a breach of the code in that the councillor appears not to have shown respect and consideration for others as required under para. 4(b) of the code. However even if proven, the Ombudsman did not believe that it would lead to a sanction being imposed.
That a councillor had sent an e-mail agreeing with the contents of the e-mail referred to in para 2.7 above and had therefore acted in an abusive and racist manner himself.	No investigation. The councillor was expressing an opinion, and the way in which he did so did not breach any part of the code.
That a councillor had trespassed on the complainant's property and argued with him and took hold of his finger and bent it back. The Police attended.	No investigation. No evidence that the councillor was acting in his capacity as a councillor. Ombudsman also noted that the police had been called.

<p>Complaint that a town councillor had taken part in a discussion on a matter in which she had a prejudicial interest.</p>	<p>No further steps to be taken. Although there was evidence to suggest that a breach of the code had taken place, the Ombudsman was not persuaded that the Standards Committee would impose a sanction in the circumstances.</p>
<p>Member had sent an e-mail to a local organisation, purporting to express the community council's views, without its authorisation.</p>	<p>Standards Committee concluded that there had been a breach of the code and imposed a censure.</p>
<p>A complaint against a county councillor by a member of the public that he had mounted a local campaign in relation to a particular issue and had misled council officers in relation to local circumstances.</p>	<p>No investigation – the complainant had not provided sufficient evidence to substantiate the complaint.</p>
<p>Complaints by four individuals arising from the same incident. Complaints that a county councillor had made serious and false allegations about individuals who had been taking part in a protest.</p>	<p>No investigation – the member had the right to freedom of expression and that right was enhanced when the comments made are political in nature. As an elected member he was entitled to the freedom to share his political views relating to the event in question.</p>
<p>The councillor had terminated a telephone call made to the complainant in relation to an incident where damage was caused to the complainant's property.</p>	<p>No investigation. Insufficient information provided to substantiate the complaint and the Ombudsman will not investigate unless there is reasonably strong evidence to suggest a breach of the code.</p>
<p>That the councillor's behaviour had been discriminatory and aggressive towards a local group during a meeting of the town council while discussing an application for funding for that group.</p>	<p>No investigation. From the evidence available it did not appear that the matters alleged constituted a breach of the code. The councillor was entitled to ask questions and request verification of details for applicants for funding from the council as part of his duties as an elected member.</p>

<p>A complaint, by a fellow town councillor, that the councillor had used his camera to bully and harass him on two separate occasions and that he had abused him verbally on several occasions.</p>	<p>No investigation.</p> <p>At the time of some of the alleged conduct, the individual was not acting as a councillor but as a private individual. The Code of Conduct only applies when a councillor is acting as a private individual in very specific circumstances, which did not appear to apply in this case. The complainant was unable to provide supporting evidence in respect of the other aspects of the complaint.</p>
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MEETING	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
DATE	27TH June 2016
TITLE	ATTENDING AND OPBSERVING MEETINGS
AUTHOR	IWAN G D EVANS, MONITORING OFFICER

Background

1. The Standards Committee has, through its work programme encouraged members to attend meetings of Gwynedd Council and community councils in the county. The main aim of the exercise was to give members an opportunity to become conversant with how Gwynedd Council or community council's member forums operated. An important means of providing a context for their work.
2. During this period a standing item was placed on the agenda and reports were provided of the visits. It was also noted that web-casting of meetings meant that it was far easier to observe meetings. During the period reports were received of visits to Llanystumdwy and Llandwrog community councils.
3. This is currently an ad-hoc arrangement and members are encouraged to attend meetings in their area. Although there is nothing to prevent members from neither attending public meetings nor following web-casts no formal structure or aims have been set for doing this. On the other hand the work has been placed in the work plan because of the perceived benefit of promoting this understanding.
4. It is an appropriate point in time to review the benefits produced. The question to be addressed is whether there would be value in setting out a more structured programme of activities.

Recommendation

That the Committee considers the possible value of setting out a more structured programme of observing meetings.

Agenda Item 7

Committee :	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Date:	29 June 2016
Title	Allegations against members
Author:	Monitoring Officer
Action:	For Information

1. Background

The purpose of this report is to present information to the Committee regarding formal complaints made against members. The report is based on information received from the Ombudsman and the case references are his.

2. Complaints

2.1 Case 7294/201600258

Date Received: 12/04/16

Complaint

Complaint that a town councillor had failed to declare a prejudicial interest on several occasions and had taken part in meetings.

Decision

Ombudsman investigating.

2.2 Case 201600999

Date Received: 23/05/16

Complaint

Complaint that a town councillor had failed to declare a prejudicial interest on several occasions and had taken part in meetings.

Decision

Ombudsman considering whether to investigate

3. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to note the information.