

SUBJECT: Protocol for Self-Regulation of Member Conduct

MEETING: Standards Committee

DATE: 19th September 2016

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1. **PURPOSE:** To update Standards Committee members on the usage of the Protocol for Self-Regulation of Member Conduct.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS:** To note the content of the report.

3. **KEY ISSUES:** Members of the Standards Committee will recall the importance that the Ombudsman places on the use of internal protocols to deal with low level member on member complaints. The Ombudsman spoke about this last year at the Standards Conference in Cardiff and he has reiterated the point in his Annual Report for 2015/16. The council has had the local resolution protocol in place since 2013 and a copy of the protocol is attached at appendix 1.

Use of the protocol by members has been limited with 4 queries being made about the protocol since its inception. However this must be seen against the backdrop of historical low numbers of complaints being made by members against other members within the council, although with the forthcoming local government elections it will be interesting if this pattern continues.

All county and county borough councils in Wales now have similar protocols in place.

Members will note the role of Standards Committee members in the process which is a supporting and advisory role to the Group Leaders. Members will also note that there is a list of the standard of conduct expected of elected members attached to the protocol.

4. **REASONS:** It is good practise to review from time to time the protocol to make sure that it is fit for purpose particularly in light of the importance that the Ombudsman places on each council having a local protocol to resolve low level member on member disputes.

5. **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:** None.

6. **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:**

No significant equality impacts were identified in the assessment.

7. **SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS:**
NONE.

8. **CONSULTEES:** None.

9. **BACKGROUND PAPERS:** None.

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