

Pecyn Cyhoeddus

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Wrecsam/ Wrexham County Borough Council
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Eich Cyf/Your Ref
Ein Cyf/Our ref
Dyddiad/Date
Gofynner am/Ask for
Rhif Cyswllt/Contact No
E-bost/E-mail

Dydd Gwener, 30 Awst 2019
Helen Coomber
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Annwyl Gyngorydd

Gofynnir i chi i ddod i **Gyfarfod PWYLLGOR SAFONAU Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Wrecsam** sydd i'w gynnal yn **YSTAFELL GYFARFOD 2, NEUADD Y DREF, WRECSAM** ar **DYDD IAU, 5 MEDI 2019** am **3.30 pm** i drafod y busnes a nodir isod.

Yn gywir

Sioned Wyn Davies
Prif Swyddog Llywodraethu a Chwsmeriaid
Chief Officer Governance & Customer

R H A G L E N

- Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb**
- Cadarnhau Cofnodion**
Cadarnhau Cofnodion y Cyfarfod a gynhaliwyd ar 6 Mehefin 2019 fel cofnod cywir
(*Tudalennau 3 - 6*)
- Datganiadau o gysylltiadau personol, os oes rhai**
Atgoffir yr Aelodau o'u cyfrifoldeb, dan Baragraff 11 o God Ymddygiad yr Aelodau, i ddatgan bodolaeth a natur unrhyw gysylltiad personol mewn perthynas ag unrhyw un o'r busnesau i'w trafod yn y cyfarfod hwn
- Ombwdsmon Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cymru - Adroddiadau Blynyddol**
Ystyried adroddiad y Swyddog Monitro (*Tudalennau 7 - 10*)
- Ombwdsmon Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cymru - Llyfr Achosion y Cod Ymddygiad**
Ystyried adroddiad y Swyddog Monitro (*Tudalennau 11 - 18*)

- 6 **Adolygiad Safonau Moesegol Llywodraeth Leol (Lloegr)**
Ystyried adroddiad y Swyddog Monitro (*Tudalennau 19 - 22*)
- 7 **Fforwm Pwyllgorau Safonau Gogledd Cymru**
Derbyn adborth ar Fforwm Pwyllgorau Safonau Gogledd Cymru
- 8 **Unrhyw eitemau eraill y mae'r Cadeirydd yn penderfynu eu bod yn rhai brys**

I'R: CADEIRYDD AC AELODAU O'R PWYLLGOR SAFONAU

Ms Julie Adams
Mr Neil Benson
Mrs Sandra Hunt
Mr Michael Pugh

Mr Geoff Edwards - Cynghorydd Cymuned
Y Cynghorydd Andrew Atkinson
Y Cynghorydd I David Bithell, MBE
Y Cynghorydd Kevin Hughes

Eitem 2

**COFNODION CYFARFOD O'R PWYLLGOR SAFONAU A GYNHALIWDYD YN
YSTAFELL GYFARFOD 2, NEUADD Y DREF, WRECSAM AR DYDD IAU, 6
MEHEFIN 2019**

AELODAU

Y Cynghorydd Mr Michael Pugh, Cadeirydd
Y Cynghorydd Mr Neil Benson, Is-Gadeirydd

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| * Ms Julie Adams | Y Cynghorydd Andrew Atkinson |
| * Mrs Claire Blanchard | Y Cynghorydd I David Bithell, MBE |
| Mrs Sandra Hunt | Y Cynghorydd Kevin Hughes |
| * Mr Geoff Edwards - Cynghorydd Cymuned | |

*Yn absennol

1 YMDDIHEURIADAU AM ABSENOLDEB

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Julie Adams.

2 CADARNHAU COFNODION

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 March 2019 be signed as a correct record.

3 RECRIWTIO AELODAU ANNIBYNNOL

The Deputy Monitoring Officer submitted a report (COGC/22/19) asking Members to consider amending the recently agreed process for the recruitment of an independent member on the Standards Committee.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented the report, advising Members that since the recruitment process and specific membership of the Selection Panel had been agreed at the March Meeting, the Chief Officer Governance & Customer had received notification that one of the independent members, Mrs Claire Blanchard wished to resign from the Committee. The Council would therefore have to follow the statutory procedure for recruitment of two new independent members as required by the Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001 (as amended).

The Committee made reference to the contribution made during Mrs Blanchard's time as an independent member and wished her well for the future.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and the recruitment process, as agreed by the Committee in March 2019, be amended to include recruitment for two independent members.

Reason for decision

To ensure the Standards Committee is constituted in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

4 GWEITHDREFN RHANNU PRYDERON

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report (COGC/20/19) to advise the Committee on the operation of the Whistleblowing Policy and to advise of any changes in practice introduced as a result of concerns raised under the Policy.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented the report and advised that four whistleblowing concerns had been raised in the past year, three of which were currently in progress. Members noted that the concerns were reviewed by the Monitoring Officer, and of the concerns raised, there had been nothing to indicate that there were recurring issues, and instead were one off issues that were being investigated to ensure appropriate action was being taken.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

Reason for decision

To fulfil the Standards Committee function of overseeing the Council's Whistleblowing regime.

5 ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL PANEL DYFARNU CYMRU

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report (COGC/19/19) to inform Members of the publication of the Annual Report 2017 – 2018 of the Adjudication Panel for Wales.

It was noted that the most common breaches of the Code related to:

- failure to show respect/equality/bullying
- bringing office/authority into disrepute
- failure to disclose an interest and/or withdraw

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

Reason for decision

To inform Members of the work undertaken by the Adjudication Panel for Wales.

6 RHAGLEN WAITH GYNLLUNIEDIG - MEDI 2019 TO MEHEFIN 2020

The Deputy Monitoring Officer submitted a report (COGC/21/19) asking Members to consider the proposed items in the Forward Work Programme for the period September 2019 to June 2020.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

Reason for decision

To approve the list of items included in the Forward Work Programme.

7 DYDDIAD AC AMSEROEDD CYFARFODYDD

Members noted that the Quarterly Meetings of the Standards Committee in 2019/2020 would be held on:

5 September 2019
5 December 2019
5 March 2020
4 June 2020

All meetings will be held in the Guildhall, Wrexham.

8 UNRHYW EITEMAU ERAILL Y MAE'R CADEIRYDD YN PENDERFYNU EU BOD YN RHAI BRYD

Constitution

Members were advised that the Council's Constitution had recently been revised and published on the Council's website. It was noted that the statutory details regarding the Standards Committee were unchanged.

North Wales Standards Forum

It was noted that the North Wales Standards Forum was due to take place in Flintshire on 24 June 2019. One of the topics for discussion was whether there was any potential in holding joint Standards Committees across North East Wales.

Y Cynghorydd Mr Michael Pugh
Cadeirydd

REPORT TO:	Standards Committee
REPORT NO:	COGC/41/19
DATE:	5 September 2019
LEAD:	Sioned Wyn Davies, Monitoring Officer
CONTACT OFFICER:	Linda Roberts, Deputy Monitoring Officer (Tel: 292221)
SUBJECT:	Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Annual Report
WARD:	N/A

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the publication of the Annual Report and Accounts of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales 2018/19.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (“The Ombudsman”) has published his Annual Report for 2018/19. The report can be viewed by Members by visiting the Ombudsman’s website www.ombudsman-wales.org.uk and searching under Annual Reports in the Publications tab or following the link to the background papers at the end of this report. This is the fifth report produced by Nick Bennett who took up office as Public Services Ombudsman for Wales in August 2014 and is the third combined annual report and accounts.
- 2.2 The Ombudsman has two specific roles, firstly to consider complaints made by members of the public that they have suffered hardship or injustice through maladministration or service failure on the part of the public body and the second role is to consider complaints that Members of Local Authorities and other public bodies have breached their adopted Codes of Conduct.
- 2.3 In his Annual Report, the Ombudsman reports on progress in the activities of the office over the past year, with specific reference to three year strategic themes of innovation, improvement and influence, which have led to substantial increases in outcomes for complainants and, he hopes, positive impacts on public services.

3 RECOMMENDATION

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3.1 To note the contents of the report.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To inform Members of the work undertaken by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 4.1 The Ombudsman's Annual Report (page 23) contains details of the Code of Conduct complaints received in respect of members of different types of public bodies as follows, noting the increase by 14% in complaints against members of Town and Community Councils:

<u>Type of Body</u>	<u>2018/19</u>	<u>2017/18</u>
Community Council	190	167
County/County Borough Council	91	102
Fire Authority	0	0
National Park Authority	1	1
Police and Crime Panels	0	0
TOTAL	282	270

- 4.2 The nature of the Code of Conduct complaints received is broken down according to the Principles of Conduct in Public Life as follows:

<u>Description of Nature of Complaint</u>	<u>Percentage (18/19)</u>
Accountability and Openness	7%
Disclosure and Registration of Interests	17%
Duty to uphold the law	9%
Integrity	13%
Objectivity and Propriety	2%
Promotion of Equality and Respect	51%
Selflessness and stewardship	1%

- 4.3 Consistent with previous years the vast majority of complaints (255 of them) were closed under the category "closed after initial consideration" (213 were closed in this way in 2017/18). The initial consideration looks at whether there is evidence to suggest the Code may have been breached and whether it is in the public interest to investigate.

4.4 A breakdown of the outcomes of all complaints made to the Ombudsman is as follows:

<u>Complaint about a Public Body</u>	<u>2018/19</u>	<u>2017/18</u>
Closed after initial consideration	255	213
Complaint withdrawn	2	4
Investigation discontinued	15	4
Investigation completed – no evidence of breach	9	13
Investigation completed – no action necessary	19	10
Investigation completed – referred to Standards Committee	4	0
Investigation completed – referred to Adjudication Panel	4	3
TOTAL OUTCOMES	308	247

4.5 The Ombudsman has not provided a breakdown of complaints by Community Councils as in previous Annual Reports.

5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1 **Policy Framework** – A strong ethical framework and governance arrangements support the Council Plan objective of building an efficient and effective organisation that can best support local well-being.

5.2 **Budget** – There are no immediate budgetary implications arising from this report.

5.3 **Legal** – By virtue of the Local Government Act 2000, Members are required to comply with the Council's Code of Conduct for Members. The Code is supplemented by the guidance issued from time to time by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales whose Annual Report is under consideration in this report.

5.4 **Staffing** – There are no staffing implications arising from this report.

5.5 **Equality/Human Rights** – Members are required to observe the provisions of the Code of Conduct for Members which includes an obligation that their duties and responsibilities be carried out with due regard to the principle of equality and opportunity for all. There are no specific issues raised in this report which would impact on those obligations and duties. CCS/EIA00165/2017.

5.6 **Risks** – This report does not give rise to any specific risks.

6. CONSULTATION

6.1 This report has not been the subject of consultation as it does not involve any decision making or recommendations.

6.2 This matter has not been subject to scrutiny.

BACKGROUND PAPERS	LOCATION	WEBSITE INFO.
Public Services Ombudsman for Wales publications	See website	https://www.ombudsman.wales/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Annual-Report-and-Accounts-2018-2019-Final-ENG.pdf



REPORT TO:	Standards Committee
REPORT NO:	COGC/40/19
DATE:	5 September 2019
LEAD:	Sioned Wyn Davies, Monitoring Officer
CONTACT OFFICER:	Linda Roberts, Deputy Monitoring Officer (Tel: 292221)
SUBJECT:	Public Services Ombudsman for Wales – Code of Conduct Casebook
WARD:	N/A

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the recent decisions of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) published in the Code of Conduct Casebook.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales periodically publishes a Casebook of Code of Conduct matters referred to his office. The latest edition covers the period January 2019 to March 2019 (Issue 20 see Appendix 1).
- 2.2 Members are invited to consider the details of cases set out in the Casebook in order to inform their understanding of the PSOW's approach to allegations of breach of the Code of Conduct and in those cases which were considered by a Standards Committee or the Adjudication Panel for Wales to note the penalties imposed.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To consider and note the decisions reported in the Code of Conduct Casebook.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

To inform Members of the work undertaken by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4.1 The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales considers complaints that members of local authorities in Wales have broken the Code of Conduct. The Ombudsman investigates such complaints under the provisions of Part III of the Local Government Act 2000 and the relevant Orders made by the National Assembly for Wales under that Act.

4.2 The Code of Conduct Casebook contains summaries of reports issued by the PSOW for which the findings were one of the following:-

- a) that there is no evidence that there has been a breach of the authority's code of conduct;
- b) that no action needs to be taken in respect of the matters that were subject to the investigation;
- c) that the matter be referred to the authority's monitoring officer for consideration by the Standards Committee;
- d) that the matter be referred to the President of the Adjudication Panel for Wales for adjudication by a tribunal (this generally happens in more serious cases).

4.3 The Code of Conduct Casebook only contains the summaries of those cases for which the hearings by the Standards Committee or Adjudication Panel for Wales have been concluded and the outcome of the hearing is known.

5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1 **Policy Framework** – A strong ethical framework and governance arrangements supports the Council Plan objective of building an efficient and effective organisation that can best support local well-being. The effective operation of the Standards Committee is an essential part of that framework.

5.2 **Budget** – There are no immediate budgetary implications arising from this report.

5.3 **Legal** – By virtue of the Local Government Act 2000, Members are required to comply with the Council's Code of Conduct for Members. The Code is supplemented by the guidance issued from time to time by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales and other publications including the Code of Conduct Casebook which is under consideration in this report.

5.4 **Staffing** – There are no staffing implications arising from this report.

5.5 **Equality/Human Rights** – Elected Members are advised of their duty to consider the full Equality Impact Assessment which is available at:
[http://vmwinsqld/equalityisalive/Menu.aspx_report_number CCS/EIA00135/2016](http://vmwinsqld/equalityisalive/Menu.aspx_report_number_CCS/EIA00135/2016).
Members of the public can request a copy of the full Equality Impact Assessment from the Contact Officer named in the header box of this report.

5.6 **Risks** – This report does not give rise to any specific risks.

6. CONSULTATION

6.1 This report has not been the subject of consultation as it does not involve any decision making or recommendations.

6.2 **Scrutiny Committee** – The matter has not been subject to scrutiny.

BACKGROUND PAPERS	LOCATION	WEBSITE INFO.
Public Services Ombudsman for Wales publications Code of Conduct casebook Issue 20	See website	https://www.ombudsman.wales/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Code-of-Conduct-Jan-March-2019-UPLOAD-.pdf

The Code of Conduct Casebook

Issue 20 May 2019

Introduction

The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales considers complaints that members of local authorities in Wales have broken the Code of Conduct. The Ombudsman investigates such complaints under the provisions of Part III of the Local Government Act 2000 and the relevant Orders made by the National Assembly for Wales under that Act.

Where the Ombudsman decides that a complaint should be investigated, there are four findings, set out under section 69 of the Local Government Act 2000, which the Ombudsman can arrive at:

- a) that there is no evidence that there has been a breach of the authority's code of conduct;
- b) that no action needs to be taken in respect of the matters that were subject to the investigation;
- c) that the matter be referred to the authority's monitoring officer for consideration by the standards committee;
- d) that the matter be referred to the President of the Adjudication Panel for Wales for adjudication by a tribunal (this generally happens in more serious cases).

In the circumstances of (c) and (d) above, the Ombudsman is required to submit the investigation report to the standards committee or a tribunal of the Adjudication Panel for Wales and it is for them to consider the evidence found by the Ombudsman, together with any defense put forward by the member concerned. It is also for them to determine whether a breach has occurred and, if so, what penalty (if any) should be imposed.

The Code of Conduct Casebook contains summaries of reports issued by this office for which the findings were one of the four set out above. However, in reference to (c) and (d) findings, The Code of Conduct Casebook only contains the summaries of those cases for which the hearings by the standards committee or Adjudication Panel for Wales have been concluded and the outcome of the hearing is known. This edition covers January to March 2019.

The Code of Conduct Casebook

Issue 20 May 2019

Contents

No evidence of breach.....	1
No action necessary	1
Referred to Standards Committee	2
Referred to Adjudication Panel for Wales	2

Case summaries

No evidence of breach

There are no summaries in relation to this finding.

No action necessary

Pembroke Dock Town Council - Promotion of equality and respect

Case Number: 201706079 - Report issued in January 2019

The Ombudsman received a complaint that a Member ("the Member") of Pembroke Dock Town Council ("the Council") had breached the Code of Conduct ("the Code") for members. It was alleged that the Member had acted in a disrespectful and bullying manner towards the previous Clerk to the Council, both in Council meetings and when communicating with her by email, between 2014 and her resignation from the Council in 2017.

The Ombudsman investigated whether the Members actions amounted to a breach of the parts of the Code that concern showing respect and consideration, bullying and harassment, bringing the Council into disrepute and a Member's duty to disclose an interest if they have one in any Council business. Information was sought from the Council, Pembrokeshire County Council and the Member. Interviews were also undertaken with relevant witnesses.

Having considered the evidence, the Ombudsman concluded that he was not persuaded that the Member acted in a disrespectful or bullying manner towards the Clerk at meetings or when communicating with her by email. He also decided that the evidence was not suggestive of a breach of the Code that the Member had not brought the Council into disrepute. The Ombudsman further concluded that it was likely that the Member may have breached the Code when failing to declare a personal interest at meetings.

Saltney Town Council - Promotion of equality and respect

Case Number: 201800177 & 201800178 & 201800179 & 201800180 - Report issued in January 2019

The Ombudsman received a complaint that Members ("the Members") of Saltney Town Council ("the Council") had breached the Code of Conduct by engaging in an argument with other councillors in front of members of the public, following a Town Council meeting.

The Ombudsman commenced an investigation on the basis that there may have been breaches of paragraphs 4(b), 4(c) and 6(1)(a) of the Code of Conduct.

The Ombudsman found that the behaviours complained about was below the standard that he would expect from elected members but that their behaviour was petty and immature and therefore to take further action and use further public resources would not be in the public interest.

Referred to Standards Committee

There are no summaries in relation to this finding.

Referred to Adjudication Panel for Wales

There are no summaries in relation to this finding.

REPORT TO:	Standards Committee
REPORT NO:	COGC/42/19
DATE:	5 September 2019
LEAD:	Sioned Wyn Davies, Monitoring Officer
CONTACT OFFICER:	Linda Roberts, Deputy Monitoring Officer (Tel: 292221)
SUBJECT:	Local Government Ethical Standards Review (England)
WARD:	N/A

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the outcome of the Committee on Standards in Public Life review of Local Government Ethical Standards in England.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) in England has undertaken a review with the following terms of reference:
1. Examine the structures, processes and practices in local government in England for:
 - a. Maintaining codes of conduct for local councillors
 - b. Investigating alleged breaches fairly and with due process
 - c. Enforcing codes and imposing sanctions for misconduct
 - d. Declaring interests and managing conflicts of interest
 - e. Whistleblowing
 2. Assess whether the existing structures, processes and practices are conducive to high standards of conduct in local government
 3. Make any recommendations for how they can be improved
 4. Note any evidence of intimidation of councillors, and make recommendations for any measures that could be put in place to prevent and address such intimidation.
- 2.2 The CSPL has published a report of its findings detailing 26 recommendations together with areas of good practice. The report is available following the link in the Background Papers at the end of this report.

3 RECOMMENDATION

3.1 To note the report and contents of the review.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To inform Members of the work undertaken by the CSPL in England on the ethical standards review.

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4.1 In England under the Local Government Act 2000, all local authorities had to adopt a national code of conduct and a standards committee to oversee the behaviour of members and receive complaints, regulated by Standards for England. However, this was found to be ineffective and bureaucratic. Instead under the Localism Act 2011, local authorities were responsible for their own local codes of conduct. Concerns were raised as to whether the sanctions for breach of standards were adequate and the CSPL monitored the implementation of the revised local government standards regime.

4.2 In conducting a review of local government ethical standards, the CSPL considered whether there was a need for a centralised body to govern and adjudicate on standards. The CSPL concluded that there was no need to reintroduce a centralised body and that local authorities should retain responsibility for implementing and applying the Seven Principles of Public Life in local government.

4.3 The CSPL made a number of recommendations including the following:

- The Local Government Association should create an updated model code of conduct in consultation with representative bodies of councillors and officers from all tiers of local government.
- The government should ensure that candidates standing for or accepting public offices are not required publicly to disclose their home address.
- Local authorities should be required to establish a register of gifts and hospitality, with councillors required to record any gifts and hospitality received over a value of £50, or totalling £100 over a year from a single source.
- Section 31 of the Localism Act 2011 should be repealed, and replaced with a requirement that councils include in their code of conduct that a councillor must not participate in a discussion or vote in a matter to be considered at a meeting if they have any interest, whether registered or not, “if a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard the interest as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your consideration or decision-making in relation to that matter”.
- Local authorities should be given the power to suspend councillors, without allowances, for up to six months.
- Councillors should be required to attend formal induction training by their political groups. National parties should add such a requirement to their model group rules.

4.4 In addition to the recommendations, the CSPL review published a list of best practice recommendations which they expect to be implanted by local authorities in England. The best practice recommendations include:

Best practice 1: Local authorities should include prohibitions on bullying and harassment in codes of conduct. These should include a definition of bullying and harassment, supplemented with a list of examples of the sort of behaviour covered by such a definition.

Best practice 2: Councils should include provisions in their code of conduct requiring councillors to comply with any formal standards investigation, and prohibiting trivial or malicious allegations by councillors.

Best practice 3: Principal authorities should review their code of conduct each year and regularly seek, where possible, the views of the public, community organisations and neighbouring authorities.

Best practice 4: An authority's code should be readily accessible to both councillors and the public, in a prominent position on a council's website and available in council premises.

Best practice 5: Local authorities should update their gifts and hospitality register at least once per quarter, and publish it in an accessible format, such as CSV.

Best practice 6: Councils should publish a clear and straightforward public interest test against which allegations are filtered.

Best practice 7: Local authorities should have access to at least two Independent Persons.

Best practice 8: An Independent Person should be consulted as to whether to undertake a formal investigation on an allegation, and should be given the option to review and comment on allegations which the responsible officer is minded to dismiss as being without merit, vexatious, or trivial.

Best practice 9: Where a local authority makes a decision on an allegation of misconduct following a formal investigation, a decision notice should be published as soon as possible on its website, including a brief statement of facts, the provisions of the code engaged by the allegations, the view of the Independent Person, the reasoning of the decision-maker, and any sanction applied.

Best practice 10: A local authority should have straightforward and accessible guidance on its website on how to make a complaint under the code of conduct, the process for handling complaints, and estimated timescales for investigations and outcomes.

Best practice 11: Formal standards complaints about the conduct of a parish councillor towards a clerk should be made by the chair or by the parish council as a whole, rather than the clerk in all but exceptional circumstances.

Best practice 12: Monitoring Officers' roles should include providing advice, support and management of investigations and adjudications on alleged breaches to parish councils within the remit of the principal authority. They should be provided with adequate training, corporate support and resources to undertake this work.

Best practice 13: A local authority should have procedures in place to address any conflicts of interest when undertaking a standards investigation. Possible steps should include asking the Monitoring Officer from a different authority to undertake the investigation.

Best practice 14: Councils should report on separate bodies they have set up or which they own as part of their annual governance statement, and give a full picture of their relationship with those bodies. Separate bodies created by local authorities should abide by the Nolan principle of openness, and publish their board agendas and minutes and annual reports in an accessible place.

Best practice 15: Senior officers should meet regularly with political group leaders or group whips to discuss standards issues.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 **Policy Framework** – There are no implications in Wales as the CSPL was reviewing the ethical standards regime in England.
- 5.2 **Budget** – There are no immediate budgetary implications arising from this report.
- 5.3 **Legal** – There are no legal implications in Wales.
- 5.4 **Staffing** – There are no staffing implications arising from this report.
- 5.5 **Equality/Human Rights** – To note only as relevant to the ethical standards regime in England.
- 5.6 **Risks** – This report does not give rise to any specific risks.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 This report has not been the subject of consultation as it does not involve any decision making or recommendations.
- 6.2 This matter has not been subject to scrutiny.

BACKGROUND PAPERS	LOCATION	WEBSITE INFO.
Local Government Ethical Standards: A Review by the Committee on Standards in Public Life (January 2019)	See website	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/777315/6.48_96_CO_CSPL_Command_Paper_on_Local_Government_Standards_v4_WEB.PDF