



COUNCIL – 28TH JANUARY 2014

SUBJECT: PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF A LOCAL RESOLUTION PROTOCOL - STANDARDS TO BE FOLLOWED BY MEMBERS

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151 OFFICER

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- 1.1 The attached report, which sought views on the draft Protocol in relation to the resolution of conduct issues at a local level in response to the guidance issued by the Public Services Ombudsman For Wales, was considered by the Standards Committee on 27th November 2013.
 - 1.2 The Standards Committee were advised that with recent guidance issued by the Ombudsman on the Code of Conduct For Members of Local Authorities, there is an expectation that Local Authorities throughout Wales will implement a Local Resolution Protocol to deal with low-level complaints made by one Member against a fellow Member. Low level, Member-on-Member complaints are typically those complaints about the alleged failure by Members to show respect and consideration for others as required by the Code of Conduct and making vexatious, malicious or frivolous complaints against other Members under the Code.
 - 1.3 The proposed 2-stage process was outlined and it was noted that Stage 1 sets out how and when the complaint is made and the initial informal resolution stage (whereby the Monitoring Officer will determine if it is appropriate to deal with the complaint under the protocol) and Stage 2, which will include a formal hearing before the Standards Committee. The protocol sets out timescales which unless agreed with the Chair must be complied with by the parties involved. It also sets out how the hearing will be conducted.
 - 1.4 Following discussion on the content of the report, the Standards Committee endorsed the proposed Local Resolution Protocol as appended to the report and recommended to Council that it be adopted.
 - 1.5 Members are asked to consider the recommendation.

Author: H. Morgan, Senior Committee Services Officer

Appendix - Report presented to Standards Committee - 27th November 2014