



## STANDARDS COMMITTEE - 27TH NOVEMBER 2013 INFORMATION ITEM

**SUBJECT:        PROTOCOL FOR REFERRING OMBUDSMAN REPORTS TO SCRUTINY  
                  COMMITTEE**

**REPORT BY:    INTERIM MONITORING OFFICER**

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### **1.        PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1       To update the Standards Committee of the decision of Council made on 8th October 2013.

### **2.        SUMMARY**

2.1       This is an information item only - a detailed report will be presented to the next Committee.

### **3.        LINKS TO STRATEGY**

3.1       The operation of scrutiny is required by the Local Government Act 2000 and subsequent Assembly legislation.

### **4.        THE REPORT**

4.1       Wales Audit Office (WAO) carried out a Scrutiny Improvement Study during 2012/13, involving local authorities in undertaking a self-evaluation and peer learning exchange. The feedback resulted in a final self-evaluation the outcome of which required the Council to produce a Scrutiny Improvement Action Plan.

4.2       The Scrutiny Improvement Action Plan included an action to 'Develop links between Standards Committee and Scrutiny process'. The action plan states Standards Committee would achieve this by referring Ombudsman reports to Scrutiny Committees where relevant. Full Council endorsed this on the 8 October 2013.

4.3       A protocol will be developed within the next few weeks and will be referred to Standards Committee for endorsement at the next meeting.

### **5.        EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1       None – this report is for information.

### **6.        FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1       None – report is for information.

**7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 None – report is for information.

**8. CONSULTATIONS**

8.1 None – report is for information.

**9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 The Members note this report.

**10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 N/A

**11. STATUTORY POWER**

11.1 Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000

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Background Papers:  
Report to Council 8th October 2010