

Meeting of:	Standards Committee
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 24 November 2022
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	All Scrutiny Committees
Report Title:	Correspondence with the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales
Purpose of Report:	To provide the Committee in Part II of the agenda with a verbal overview of correspondence with the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales and matters arising.
Report Owner:	Debbie Marles, Monitoring Officer/ Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Responsible Officer:	Karen Bowen, Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	This report does not involve any consultation with other parties
Policy Framework:	This is a matter for the Standards Committee
Executive Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide the Committee in Part II of the agenda with a verbal overview of correspondence with the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales and matters arising

Recommendation

1. That the Standards Committee notes the content of the report and considers the update on the correspondence with the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales ('the Ombudsman') and matters arising under the Part II report on this agenda.

Reason for Recommendation

1. To apprise Members of the Committee.

1. Background

- 1.1 In line with the Committee's Forward Work Programme it has been agreed that a standing item appears on the Committee's agenda so that the Committee is apprised of correspondence with the Ombudsman and any matters arising.
- 1.2 For the Committee's information Michelle Morris took up the position as the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales on 1st April 2022

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 The Monitoring Officer will provide an update to the Standards Committee, at the meeting, under Part II of this agenda in relation to recent correspondence and matters arising in line with the procedures of the Ombudsman and which are confidential at this stage

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1 The Standards Committee shall have the following roles and functions:
 - (a) promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Councillors, Co-Opted Members and Church and Parent Governor representatives;
 - (b) assisting Councillors, Co-Opted Members and Church and Parent Governor representatives to observe the Members' Code of Conduct;
 - (c) advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct;
 - (d) monitoring the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct;
 - (e) advising, training or arranging to train Councillors, Co-Opted Members and Church and Parent Governor representatives on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct;
 - (f) granting dispensations to Councillors, Co-Opted Members and Church and Parent Governor representatives from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct;

- (g) dealing with any reports from a case tribunal or interim case tribunal, and any report from the Monitoring Officer on any matters referred to that officer by the Public Services Ombudsman;
- (h) the exercise of (a) to (g) above in relation to the Community Councils wholly or mainly in its area and the members of those Community Councils;
- (i) overview of complaints handling and Ombudsman investigations.

4. Climate Change and Nature Implications

4.1 None as a result of this report.

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

5.1 None as a result of this report.

Employment

5.2 None as a result of this report.

Legal (Including Equalities)

5.3 None as a result of this report.

6. Background Papers

N/A