

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE
7 MARCH 2019

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

OMBUDSMAN CASEBOOK AND CODE OF CONDUCT CASEBOOK

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide Members with a summary of cases that have been undertaken by the Ombudsman's Office.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority

- 2.1 Standards are an implicit requirement in the successful implementation of the Corporate Priorities.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Ombudsman's Casebook is published on a quarterly basis and contains the summaries of all reports issued during the quarter, as well as a selection of summaries relating to quick fixes and voluntary settlements.

- 3.2 The Code of Conduct Casebook is published quarterly and contains the summaries of all reports issued under section 69(4) of the Local Government Act 2000.

- 3.3 Where the Ombudsman decides that a complaint should be investigated, there are four findings, set out under section 69 of the Act, 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).

- 3.4 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 defence 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.

4. Current situation / proposal

- 4.1 The Casebook for July – October 2018 is attached at **Appendix 1**.

4.2 The Code of Conduct Casebook (attached as **Appendix 2**) 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. The Casebook covers the period October to December 2018.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules

5.1 None.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 There are no equality issues arising from this report.

7. Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Implications

7.1 The report supports all the wellbeing objectives.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 None.

9. Recommendation

9.1 The Committee is recommended to note the report.

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Background Documents

None