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MONDAY, 26 FEBRUARY 2024

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

I HEREBY SUMMON YOU TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THE CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, CARMARTHEN. SA31 1JP AND REMOTELY AT 2.00 PM ON MONDAY, 4TH MARCH, 2024 FOR THE TRANSACTION OF THE BUSINESS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA

Wendy Walters

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Democratic Officer:	Julie Owens
Telephone (direct line):	01267 224088
E-Mail:	juowens@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

This is a multi-location meeting. Committee members can attend in person at the venue detailed above or remotely via the Zoom link which is provided separately.

The meeting can be viewed on the Authority's website via the following link:- https://carmarthenshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home

Wendy Walters Prif Weithredwr, Chief Executive, Neuadd y Sir, Caerfyrddin. SA31 1JP County Hall, Carmarthen. SA31 1JP

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

9 MEMBERS

MEMBERSHIP: 9 MEMBERS

Independent Members (5)

- 1. Mrs Mary Dodd
- 2. Ms Caryl Davies
- 3. Mrs Daphne Evans
- 4. Mr Frank Phillips
- 5. vacancy

Community Committee Member (1)

1. Town Councillor Phillip Rogers

Elected Members of the County Council (3)

- 1. Councillor Betsan Jones
- 2. Councillor Gareth Thomas
- 3. vacancy

AGENDA

1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
2.	DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST	
3.	TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 16TH JANUARY 2024	5 - 8
4.	APPOINTMENT OF A NEW VICE-CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE	9 - 12
5.	REVIEW OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE ACTION LOG	13 - 20
6.	CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING FOR TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS	21 - 78
7.	TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT DATA GATHERING EXERCISE	79 - 86
8.	DISPENSATION REQUEST BY COUNCILLOR RODERICK GRIFFITHS	87 - 102
9.	DISPENSATION REQUEST BY COUNCILLOR MARY MARGARET WENMAN	103 - 110
10.	GROUP DISPENSATION REQUEST ON BEHALF OF MEMBERS OF LLANLLAWDDOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL	111 - 122
11.	FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2024-2025	123 - 132
12.	ANY OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE CHAIR DECIDES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY PURSUANT TO SECTION 100B(4)(B) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972.	



STANDARDS COMMITTEE

16 JANUARY 2024

PRESENT: M. Dodd (Chair) (In Person)

Councillors (Virtually):

G.B. Thomas and B.W. Jones

Independent Members (In Person):

D. Evans and J. James

Independent Members (Virtually):

C. Davies and F. Phillips

Community Member (Virtually):

Councillor P. Rogers

Also Present (In Person):

R. Edgecombe, Legal Services Manager;

A. Eynon, Principal Translator;

M. Runeckles, Member Support Officer;

J. Owen, Democratic Services Officer.

Also Present (Virtually):

D. Hall-Jones, Member Support Officer.

Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen, SA31 1JP and remotely: 1:30pm - 1:53pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

There were no apologies for absence received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST.

There were no declarations of personal interest.

3. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 11TH DECEMBER 2023

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on the 11th December, 2023 be signed as a correct record.

4. DISPENSATION APPLICATION BY COUNCILLOR ALED DAVIES, COUNCILLOR ALUN DAVIES, COUNCILLOR ARWEL DAVIES, COUNCILLOR MARK HARRIES, COUNCILLOR ANDREW THOMAS

The Committee considered an application submitted by Cllrs Aled Davies, Alun Davies, Arwel Davies, Mark Harris, Andrew Thomas of Manordeilo and Salem Community Council to speak and vote and make written representations in relation to council business regarding the Bute Energy Towy Usk Energy Scheme.

It was reported that a dispensation was sought by 5 Councillors each of which had a prejudicial interest in the matters relating to the Bute Energy Towy Usk Energy Scheme. Members considered the list of personal interests appended to the report.

The Legal Services Manager highlighted that the application referenced that that the 5 councillors made up 41% of the total membership of the Council.

In noting that previously granted dispensations to other councillors had been made in respect of similar interests, as stated in the report, Members were minded that consistency and fairness be applied to this application in terms of not voting.

Following a discussion it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that dispensation be granted under Regulation 2 (2)(d) and (f) of the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensation) (Wales) Regulations 2001 to Councillors Aled Davies, Alun Davies, Arwel Davies, Mark Harris, Andrew Thomas to SPEAK AND MAKE WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS ONLY at meetings in relation to matters regarding Bute Energy Towy Usk Energy Scheme and that these dispensations be valid until the end of the respective Councillors current term in office.

5. DISPENSATION APPLICATION BY COUNCILLOR PETER COMLEY

The Committee considered an application submitted by Councillor Peter Comley of Betws Community Council for the grant of a dispensation under the provisions of the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations to speak and make written representations in relation to council business regarding Betws RFC in respect of the following personal and prejudicial interests:

 Betws RFC – Councillor Comley is a Member of the Committee, the Secretary, the Treasurer and a Licensee for Betws RFC

It was reported that a dispensation was sought as Councillor Comley had a personal and prejudicial interest in these matters by virtue of paragraph 10(2)(ix)(ee) of the Code of Conduct.



UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that dispensation be granted under Regulation 2 (2)(f) and (h) of the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensation) (Wales) Regulations 2001 to Councillor Peter Comley to SPEAK AND MAKE WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS ONLY at meetings in relation to matters regarding Betws RFC and that the dispensation be valid until the end of his current term in office.

6. ANY OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS

7 G	
There were no items of urgent business.	
CHAIR	DATE



Standards Committee 04/03/2024

Subject

Appointment of a New Vice-Chair of the Committee

Purpose:

To appoint a new Vice-Chair

Recommendations / key decisions required:

To appoint a new Vice-Chair from amongst the co-opted independent members of the committee.

Reasons:

Report Author:

The previous Vice-Chair is no longer a member of the committee.

Cabinet Decision Required NO

Council Decision Required NO

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Not applicable

Name of Head of Service: Email addresses:

Name of Head of Service: Email addresses:

Linda Rees-Jones Head of Administration and Law rjedgeco@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Robert Edgecombe Legal Services Manager



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 04/03/2024

SUBJECT Appointment of a New Vice-Chair of the Committee

Appointment of a New Vic	ce-Chair of the Committee
Following the departure of the previous Vice-Chais a need for a new Vice-Chair to be appointed.	air, Mrs Julie James, from the Committee, there
Each nominee will require a proposer and secon	der.
If there is more than one nominee the matter will accordance with the Council Procedure Rules.	be put to a vote of the whole committee in
DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	NO



IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: Linda Rees-Jones Head of Administration and Law

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Manage- ment Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets	Bio- diversity & Climate Change
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:			
Signed: Linda Rees-Jones	Head of Adminis	stration and Law	
1.Scrutiny Committee request for	or pre-determination	NO	
,	p		
Scrutiny Committee	Not applicable		
Date the report was considered:	- Not applicable		
Scrutiny Committee Outcome/Recommendations:- Not applicable			
2.Local Member(s) Not applicable			
3.Community / Town Council			
Not applicable			
4.Relevant Partners Not applicable			
5.Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations Not applicable			
CARINET MEMBER PORTEOLIO	Not applicable		

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO
HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED
No

Section 100D Local Government Act. 1972 – Access to Information

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THERE ARE NONE



Standards Committee 04/03/2024

Subject

Review of the Standards Committee Action Log

Purpose:

To note the progress made in relation to actions identified at the last committee meeting.

Recommendations / key decisions required:

To note the progress made.

Reasons:

This assists the committee in monitoring its work.

Cabinet Decision Required NO

Council Decision Required NO

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-Not applicable

Directorate: Chief Executives Designations: Tel:01267 224018

Name of Head of Service: Email addresses:

rjedgeco@carmarthenshire.gov.uk Head of Administration Linda Rees-Jones

and Law Report Author:

Legal Services Manager Robert Edgecombe



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 04/01/2024

Review of the Standards Committee Action Log

The Standards Committee maintains a log of agreed actions arising from committee meetings, and reviews progress against those actions at every scheduled meeting.

At the last scheduled meeting in December 2023 a total of 4 actions were identified and added to the log. These related to.

- 1. Further changes to the committee's disciplinary procedures
- 2. Making further inquiries in relation to Declarations of Gifts and Hospitality

 Making further inquiries in relation to bee Making further enquiries regarding the loc Writing to the Group Leaders with an upd on the proposed assessment criteria. 	
These actions have been addressed and an upo	dated Action Log is attached.
	V50
DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	YES



IMPLICATIONS

ALL IMPLICATIONS REQUIRE SIGN OFF BY THE DIRECTOR OR HEAD OF SERVICE

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: LRJones Head of Administration and Law

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Manage- ment Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets	Bio- diversity & Climate Change
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:			
Signed:	LRJones	Head of Adminis	stration and law
	specify the outcomes of consuming headings)	Iltations undertaken	where they arise against
1. Scru	utiny Committee request for pro	e-determination	NO
If yes i	nclude the following information	on: -	
Scrutir	ny Committee		
Date th	ne report was considered:-		
Scrutir	ny Committee Outcome/Recom	mendations:-	
2.Local	Member(s)		
Not appl	icable		
3.Comm	nunity / Town Council icable		
4.Releva	ant Partners icable		
5.Staff S Not appl	ide Representatives and other icable	Organisations	



CABINET MEMBER POR HOLDER(S) AWARE/CO		Not applicable
No		
I .		t, 1972 – Access to Information the preparation of this report:
Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Legal Department File	DPSC-218	County Hall, Carmarthen.





Reference	Meeting Date	ACTION	PROGRESS	Officer	Status
DPSC-201/1	12/12/22	Create an action log recording actions agreed at Standards committee meetings and present at each quaterly committee meeting	Log created and included on agenda for March 2022 meeting	R J Edgecombe	Completed
DPSC-201/2	12/12/22	Write to Group leaders setting out the committee's requirements regarding compliance with the Group Leaders duty in the Local Government and Elections Act	Letter sent to Group Leaders 03/02/2023	R J Edgecombe	Completed
DPSC-205/1	07/03/23	Carry out annual data gathering exercise with Town and Community Councils to include additional questions and to be completed via SnapSurvey. Deadline for presentation of results 18/09/2023	Exercise completed and report scheduled for	R J Edgecombe	ongoing
DPSC-205/2	07/03/23	Arrange 2 Code of Conduct Training sessions for Town and Community Councils in June/July 2023. One session to be during office hours and 1 session in early evening	Sessions held in June and July 2023	R J Edgecombe	Completed
DPSC-0000	11/04/23	Include agenda item on developing a Forward Work Plan on the June Agenda	Included in the agenda for June meeting	RJEdgecombe	Completed
DPSC-212/1	12/06/23	Update Forward Work Plan with items relating to Dispensation Requests, Disciplinary Referrals and Informal Resolution Protocol and recirculate to members for approval	Revised Plan circulated 03/07/2023.	RJEdgecombe	Completed
DPSC-212/2	12/06/23	Finalise response to Penn Report consultation and sent to Welsh Government	Response sent to Welsh Government on 20th June 2023	RJEdgecombe	Completed
DPSC-212/3	12/06/23	Produce report to Committee at its December 2023 meeting recarding the Informal Resolution Protocol	Report presented to committee 11/12/2023	RJEdgecombe	Completed
DPSC-212/4	12/06/23	Finalise annual report and sent it to DSU for inclusion on Full Council agenda.	Report sent to DSU 21st June 2023	RJEdgecombe	Completed
DPSC-212/5	12/06/23	Prepare revised Disciplinary Hearings Procedure and submit to September 2023 meeting for approval	Report not provided due to oversight. Revised target date of December 2023 meeting agreed for delivery of report. Report prsented 11/12/2023	RJEdgecombe	Completed
DPSC-213/1	18/09/23	Prepare report to December meeting regarding gifts and hospitality	Report presented 11/12/2023	RJEdgecombe	Completed
DPSC-213/2	18/09/23	Send fresh code training link to all Town and Community Councils	Link sent 25/09/2023	RJEdgecombe	Completed
DPSC-213/3	18/09/23	Write to All Town and Community Councils regarding duty to formally adopt training plan and reference latest Welsh Government Guidance. Advise Councils that they will be asked again about this in 2024. Provide sample training plan. Ask other Monitoring Officers if there is a similar level of compliance in their areas and what they are doing about it	Letter sent to all Councils with copy of Welsh Government Guidance 23/10/2023. Issue raised with other councils monitorng Officers 13/10/2023	RJEdgecombe	Completed
DPSC-213/4	18/09/23	Contact Group Leaders to agree a date for them to meet with the Standards Committee early April 2024. Provide Group Leaders with Welsh Government Guidance. Seek views of Group Leaders regarding the report form. Establish what other monitoring Officers are doing regarding frequency of meetings	Issue raised with other Monitorng officers 13/10/2023. Letter sent to Group Leaders 16/10/223	RJEdgecombe	Completed
DPSC-213/5	18/09/23	Submit response to Tribunal White Paper specifically referencing questions 28 and 29 and the diversity of tribunal membership	Online response submitted 18/9/2023	RJEdgecombe	Completed
DPSC-216/1	11/12/23	Amend Disiplinary hearing procedure to reflect comments at committee meeting	Procedure amended 12/12/2023	RJEdgecombe	Completed
DPSC-216/2	11/12/23	Declarations of Gifts and Hospitality - highlight to DSU correction needed in relation to one entry and make further enquiries regarding entry by ClIr Darren Price relating to Llaneli Rural Council dinner in honour of clIr Giles Morgan. Informal Resolution Procedure - Raise queries with Monitoring	Email sent to DSU 12/12/2023. Emai sent to Llanelli Rural Council 12/12/2023	RJEdgecombe	Completed
DPSC-216/3	11/12/23	Offcer regarding complaints between Unaffiliated members and who makes referral to PSOW if persistent breaches. Report back to committee	Email sent to committee members on 06/02/2024	RJEdgecombe	Completd
DPSC-216/4	11/12/23	Group Leaders Duty- Notify Group leaders of report deadline of 05/04/2024. Amend criteria to include reference to some of the matters included in the report template. Amnd report template to include express reference to online behaviours. Add to criteria use of APW and PSOW decisions as learning tools.	Reporting template and Assessment Threshold amended. Letter to Group Leaders sent 22/01/2024	RJEdgecombe	Completed



Standards Committee 04/03/2024

Subject

CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING FOR TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS

Purpose:

To agree the arrangements for the 2024 code training sessions

Recommendations / key decisions required:

To agree the number and timing of sessions and how they are to be delivered.

Reasons:

The committee has arranged annual training sessions for a number of years

Cabinet Decision Required NO

Council Decision Required NO

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-Not applicable

Directorate: Chief Executives Tel: 01267 224018 Designations:

Name of Head of Service: Email addresses:

Head of Administration Linda Rees-Jones rjedgeco@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

and Law

Report Author:

Robert Edgecombe Legal Services Manager



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY STANDARDS COMMITTEE 04/03/2024

CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING FOR TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS

For several years, the Standards Committee has arranged code of conduct training sessions for Town and Community Councillors. These usually take place during June and July and have been a mixture of in-person, hybrid and remote sessions, depending on the circumstances at the time.

The committee considered a report in September 2023 regarding that years sessions and endorsed the suggestion that consideration be given to holding future sessions remotely, given the low level of in person attendance and the additional resources required to facilitate a hybrid meeting.

Following discussions with the Council's Head of Democratic Services it has been agreed that it should be possible to live webcast the training session and for council clerks to be provided with a link to the recording of the session, which would be hosted on the Council's website and accessible for up to 6 months. This should overcome the difficulties that some councils had in accessing the recording of last year's sessions.

If it this approach is agreed, it is suggested that only one session need take place, timed to take place during working hours. The session would be held in June or July, according to the availability of the presenters.

The training presentation has been reviewed and updated to include the latest decisions by the Adjudication Panel for Wales. A copy of the updated presentation is attached.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	YES



IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: Linda Rees-Jones Head of Administration and Law

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Manage- ment Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets	Bio- diversity & Climate Change
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:					
Signed: Linda Rees-Jones	Head of Administration and Law				
2. Scrutiny Committee request for determination	or pre-	NA			
Scrutiny Committee					
Date the report was considered:-					
2.Local Member(s) NA					
3.Community / Town Council NA					
4.Relevant Partners NA					
5.Staff Side Representatives and other NA	er Organisations				



CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED	NA				
NA					
Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:					
THERE ARE NONE					





HYFFORDDIANT CÔD YMDDYGIAD AR GYFER CYNGHORWYR TREF A CHYMUNED 2024

CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING FOR TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS 2024

RHAGLEN PROGRAMME

Cyflwyniad Y Pwyllgor Safonau Pryd mae'r Côd yn gymwys Y Côd a'r Cyfryngau **Cymdeithasol** Dyletswyddau Cyffredinol **Buddiannau Personol Buddiannau Rhagfarnol Buddiannau Eithriedig** Gollyngiadau **Gorfodaeth Deddfwriaeth ac Achosion** Diweddar **B**le gallwch gael cyngor **Casgliad** Cwestiynau

Introduction **Standards Committee** When the Code Applies The Code and Social Media **General Duties** Personal Interests **Prejudicial Interests Exempt Interests Dispensations Enforcement Recent Cases & Legislation** Where to seek advice Conclusion **Questions**

CYFLWYNIAD INTRODUCTION

Mae'r Côd yn seiliedig ar Egwyddorion Nolan ar gyfer ymddygiad mewn bywyd cyhoeddus

Mae'n <u>rhaid</u> i bob Cyngor fabwysiadu ei gôd ei hun yn seiliedig ar fodel Llywodraeth Cymru. Diwygiwyd ddiwethaf – haf 2016

Canllawiau'r Ombwdsmon wedi'u diweddaru Hydref 2022.

Canllawiau penodol wedi'u cyhoeddi ar gyfer Cynghorau Tref a Chymuned

Code based upon the Nolan Principles for conduct in public life

Each Council <u>must</u> adopt its own code based on the WG model. Last revised – summer 2016

Ombudsman's Guidance updated October 2022.

Specific guidance issued for Town and Community Councils

Y PWYLLGOR SAFONAU - CYFANSODDIAD STANDARDS COMMITTEE - COMPOSITION

9 aelod.

- 3 Chynghorydd Sir,
- 1 Cynghorydd Cymuned a
- 5 aelod annibynnol cyfetholedig

9 members.

- 3 County Councillors,
- 1 Community
 Councillor and
- 5 co-opted independent members

Y PWYLLGOR SAFONAU – RÔL STANDARDS COMMITTEE - ROLE

Hyrwyddo safonau ymddygiad uchel gan Gynghorwyr

Cynorthwyo Cynghorwyr i gadw at y Côd

Monitro gweithrediad y Côd

Rhoi cyngor ar fabwysiadu neu ddiwygio'r Côd

Treefnu Hyfforddiant y Côd

Rhoi gollyngiadau

Promote high standards of conduct by Cllrs

Assist Cllrs to observe the Code

Monitor the operation of the Code

Advise on the adoption or revision of the Code

Arrange Code Training

Grant dispensations

Y PWYLLGOR SAFONAU – CASGLU DATA'R CÔD STANDARDS COMMITTEE – CODE DATA GATHERING

- Ymarfer casglu data blynyddol sy'n chwilio am ddata ar ddatganiadau o fuddiant a hyfforddiant y côd
- Darparu tystiolaeth o lefel y gydymffurfiaeth â'r côd
- •ଞ୍ଚି Helpu i lywio rhaglen waith y pwyllgor

- Annual data gathering exercise seeking data on declarations of interest and code training
- Provides evidence of the level of code compliance
- Helps inform the committee's work programme

PRYD MAE'R CÔD YN GYMWYS WHEN THE CODE APPLIES

PRYD MAE'R CÔD YN GYMWYS WHEN THE CODE APPLIES

Mewn unrhyw gyfarfod swyddogol o'r cyngor

Mewn unrhyw gyfarfod gydag aelodau neu swyddogion

Wrth weithredu fel
Cynrychiolydd y Cyngor neu
ymddangos eich bod yn
gwneud hynny

Wrth ymgymryd â busnes y Cyngor

Wrth weithredu mewn unrhyw rôl swyddogol arall

Wrth gynrychioli'r Cyngor ar gorff arall

AC

In any official council meeting

In any meeting with members or officers

When acting as a Council rep or appearing to do so

If conducting Council business

If acting in any other official role

If a Council rep on another body

AND

PRYD MAE'R CÔD YN GYMWYS WHEN THE CODE APPLIES

UNRHYW BRYD OS YW'R CANLYNOL YN BERTHNASOL:

- Os yw eich ymddygiad yn debygol o ddwyn anfri ar eich swyddfa neu'r Cyngor
- Os ydych yn defnyddio eich swydd i ennill mantais i chi eich hun neu rywun arall
- Os ydych yn camddefnyddio adnoddau'r Cyngor

COFIWCH – mae'r Côd yr un mor berthnasol i gyfarfodydd o bell ag i rai wyneb yn wyneb

AT ANY TIME IF:

Your conduct is likely to bring your office or the Council into disrepute
You use your position to gain an advantage for yourself or another
You misuse Council resources

REMEMBER – the Code applies just as much to remote meetings as to physical ones

Y Côd a'r Cyfryngau Cymdeithasol The Code and Social Media

- Bydd y côd felly'n berthnasol wrth ddefnyddio cyfryngau cymdeithasol
- Cadwch wahaniaeth clir rhwng postiadau personol a gwleidyddol
- Peidiwch â phostio'r hyn na fyddech yn ei ddweud yn wyneb rhywun
- Peidiwch ag yfed a thrydar!

- The code will therefore apply when using social media
- Clearly distinguish between personal and political posts
- Don't post what you would not say to someone's face
- Don't drink and tweet!

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DYLETSWYDDAU CYFFREDINOL GENERAL DUTIES

Cynghorwyr yn ymddiheuro i staff am gynnig 'defod baganaidd'

Councillors apologise to staff over 'pagan ritual' offer

Dirprwy Arweinydd Cyngor yng Nghymru yn ymddiswyddo dan gwmwl oherwydd y gair 'N'

Welsh N-word council deputy resigns in disgrace

Ymchwilio i Gynghorydd oherwydd neges e-bost dramgwyddus

Councillor investigated for 'offensive' email

Gwrandawiad naw awr ynghylch cynghorydd oedd wedi 'bod yn bigitian yn gas ar y cyrion'

Nine-hour hearing over councillor who 'bitched from the sidelines'

DYLETSWYDDAU CYFFREDINOL – RHAID ICHI GENERAL DUTIES – YOU MUST

- Hyrwyddo Cydraddoldeb
- Dangos parch ac ystyriaeth i eraill
- Peidio â bwlio neu aflonyddu ar eraill
- Peidio â pheryglu diffyg tuedd y swyddogion
- Peidio â datgelu gwybodaeth gyfrinachol
- Peidio ag atal mynediad at wybodaeth
 - Peidio â dwyn anfri ar eich swyddfa neu'ch cyngor

- Promote Equality
- Show respect & consideration to others
- Not harass or bully others
- Not compromise your officers impartiality
- Not disclose confidential information
- Not prevent access to information
- Not bring your office or council into disrepute

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DYLETSWYDDAU CYFFREDINOL – RHAID ICHI GENERAL DUTIES – YOU MUST

- Rhoi gwybod am achosion o dorri'r côd
- Peidio â gwneud cwynion blinderus
- Cydweithio ag ymchwiliadau
- Peidio â defnyddio eich swydd yn amhriodol
- Peidio â chamddefnyddio adnoddau'r Cyngor
- Gwneud penderfyniadau yn wrthrychol
 - Ystyried cyngor a rhoi rhesymau dros beidio â'i ddilyn

- Report code breaches
- Not make vexatious complaints
- Cooperate with investigations
- Not use your position improperly
- Not misuse Council resources
- Reach decisions objectively
- Consider advice and give reasons for not following it

DYLETSWYDDAU CYFFREDINOL – RHAID ICHI GENERAL DUTIES – YOU MUST

- Cydymffurfio â rheolau ynghylch treuliau
- Peidio â derbyn anrhegion neu letygarwch sy'n eich rhwymo neu'n ymddangos eu bod yn gwneud hynny

- Comply with rules on expenses
- Not accept gifts or hospitality that obligates you or appear to do so

BUDDIANNAU PERSONOL PERSONAL INTERESTS

"Mae'n rhaid i'r cyhoedd deimlo'n hyderus bod Cynghorwyr yn gweithredu er budd y cyhoedd, nid er eu budd eu hunain, neu er budd eu teulu a'u ffrindiau."

(Ombwdsmon Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cymru)

"The public must have confidence that Councillors are acting in the public's best interests, not their own, or those of their family and friends."

(Public Services Ombudsman for Wales)

BUDDIANNAU PERSONOL PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Mae'r Côd yn rhestru nifer o sefyllfaoedd lle y mae buddiant personol yn codi
- Os oes gennych fuddiant personol mewn unrhyw fater sy'n berthnasol i'r Cyngor, mae'n <u>rhaid</u> ichi ddatgan y buddiant hwnnw
- Os yw'r buddiant hwnnw hefyd yn <u>rhagfarnol</u> ni allwch gymryd rhan neu bleidleisio.
 - Yn ddelfrydol, dylai POB agenda gynnwys eitem sefydlog ynghylch datgan buddiannau gan fod hyn yn helpu i atgoffa'r aelodau i roi ystyriaeth ddifrifol i'r mater

- The Code lists a number of situations where a personal interest arises.
- If you have a personal interest in any council business you <u>must</u> declare that interest
- If that interest is also <u>prejudicial</u> you cannot participate or vote.
- ALL agendas should ideally contain a standing item on declarations of interest as this helps remind members to give serious thought to this issue

Os yw mater yn ymwneud â, neu'n debygol o effeithio ar:

- 1. Eich cyflogaeth neu'ch busnes
- 2. Eich cyflogwr neu fusnes yr ydych yn bartner neu'n gyfarwyddwr ynddo
- 3.Unrhyw un (heblaw'r cyngor) sy'n cyfrannu at eich treuliau o ran etholiadau neu dreuliau aelodau Neu...

Where a matter relates to or is likely to affect;

- 1. Your employment or business
- 2. Your employer or a business in which you are a partner or director
- 3. Anyone (other than your council) who contributes to your election or members expenses

Or....

Parhad...

- 4. Cwmni sydd â lle busnes neu dir yn eich ardal y mae gennych 1% o gyfranddaliadau ynddo (neu gyfranddaliadau gwerth mwy na £25k)
- 5. Contract am nwyddau/gwasanaethau/gwaith rhwng eich cyngor a busnes yr ydych yn gyfranddaliwr neu'n gyfarwyddwr ynddo

Contd...

- 4. A company with a place of business/land in your area in which you hold 1% of shares (or shares worth more than £25k)
- 5. A contract for goods/services/works between your council and a business in which you are a director or a shareholder Or.....

Neu.....

Parhad...

- 6. Tir yr ydych yn berchen arno (neu'n berchen yn rhannol arno) yn yr ardal
- 7. Tir lle mae eich Cyngor yn landlord ac rydych chi neu eich busnes yn denant (yn cynnwys os ydych yn gyfarwyddwr neu'n gyfranddaliwr)
- 8. Unrhyw dir yn yr ardal lle mae gennych drwydded alwedigaethol.

Contd...

- 6. Land that you own (include part own) in the area
- 7. Land where your Council is the landlord and you or your business is a tenant (includes where you are a director or shareholder)
- 8. Any land in the area where you hold an occupational licence.

Or....

a∰Neu...

Parhad...

- 9. Lle rydych yn aelod neu lle mae gennych rôl rheoli yn y mathau canlynol o sefydliadau:
- (a) Awdurdod cyhoeddus/corff sy'n cyflawni swyddogaethau cyhoeddus
- (b) Cwmni, cymdeithas neu elusen
- (c) Corff sy'n bod er mwyn dylanwadu ar farn gyhoeddus

Contd...

- 9. Where you are a member of or have a management role in the following types of organisation;
- (a) Public authority/body exercising public functions
- Company, society or charity (b)
- **Body which exists to influence** public opinion

Or....

Neu.... Page 46

- 9. Parhad...
- (d) Undeb Llafur neu gymdeithas broffesiynol(e) Clwb, cymdeithas neu fudiad preifat sy'n gweithredu yn yr ardal
- 9. Contd...
- (d)Trade union or professional association(e)Private club, society or association operating in the area

₋₋₋Neu....

Or....

Os ystyrir yn rhesymol bod y mater yn effeithio ar:

- Eich llesiant neu'ch sefyllfa ariannol
- 2. Llesiant neu sefyllfa ariannol person sy'n byw gyda chi
- Llesiant neu sefyllfa ariannol cyfaill agos personol

Neu...

Where the matter might reasonably be regarded as affecting;

- 1. Your well-being or financial position
- 2. The well-being or financial position of a person you live with
- 3. The well-being or financial position of a close personal associate

Or...

Parhad...

- 4. Unrhyw gyflogaeth neu fusnes sydd gennych chi, person sy'n byw gyda chi, neu gyfaill agos personol i chi.
- 5. Unrhyw berson sy'n cyflogi person sy'n byw gyda chi neu gyfaill agos personol neu unrhyw fusnes y maent yn bartner neu'n gyfarwyddwr ynddo.

Neu...

Contd...

- 4. Any employment or business carried on by you, a person living with you, or a close personal associate of yours.
- 5. Any person who employs a person living with you or a close personal associate or any business in which they are a partner or director.

Or....

Parhad...

6. Unrhyw awdurdod cyhoeddus, cwmni, cymdeithas, elusen, undeb llafur, cymdeithas broffesiynol, clwb neu gymdeithas breifat lle y mae person sy'n byw gyda chi/cyfaill agos personol yn aelod neu'n dal swydd reoli.

Neu...

Contd...

6. Any public authority, company, society, charity, trade union, professional association, private club, or association in which a person living with you/close personal associate is a member or has a position of control or management.

Or....

Parhad...

7. Unrhyw gwmni lle mae person sy'n byw gyda chi/cyfaill agos personol yn berchen ar gyfranddaliadau gwerth mwy na £5,000.

OS OES GENNYCH FUDDIANT PERSONOL, MAE'N RHAID I CHI EI DDATGAN.

Contd...

7. Any company in which a person living with you/close personal associate owns shares worth more than £5,000.

IF YOU HAVE A PERSONAL INTEREST THEN YOU MUST DECLARE IT.

BUDDIANNAU RHAGFARNOL PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

Os oes gennych
Fuddiant Personol
mae'n RHAID i chi
wirio ai buddiant
rhagfarnol ydyw hefyd.

COFIWCH

Nid cwestiwn ydyw o ran a ydych yn credu bod y buddiant yn dylanwadu arnoch, ond a ydych yn credu y byddai aelod tybiedig o'r cyhoedd yn credu ei fod yn dylanwadu arnoch.

If you have a <u>Personal</u> interest you MUST check whether that interest is also prejudicial.

REMEMBER

The test is not whether you think the interest influences you, but whether you think a hypothetical member of the public would think it does.

BUDDIANNAU RHAGFARNOL PREJUDICAL INTERESTS

Os oes gennych Fuddiant Rhagfarnol mae'n <u>RHAID</u> i chi wneud y canlynol:

- 1. Datgelu'r buddiant hwnnw
- Peidio â cheisio dylanwadu ar unrhyw benderfyniad
- Gadael y cyfarfod tra bod y mater hwnnw yn cael ei drafod
- Mae hyn yn golygu bod yn rhaid i chi adael yr ystafell!!

If you have a Prejudicial interest you <u>MUST</u>;

- 1. Disclose that interest
- Not try to influence any decision
- Withdraw from the meeting whilst that business is dealt with
- 4. This means vou must leave the room!!

BUDDIANNAU EITHRIEDIG EXEMPTED INTERESTS

Mae'r Côd yn rhestru rhai buddiannau personol NAD ydynt yn rhagfarnol, sef:

- 1. Lie bo'r mater yn ymwneud ag awdurdod arall yr ydych yn aelod ohono
- 2. Lle bo'r mater yn ymwneud ag awdurdod cyhoeddus arall y mae gennych swydd reoli ynddo

Neu....

The Code lists certain personal interests which are NOT prejudicial, namely;

- 1. Where the business relates to another authority of which you are a member
- 2. Where the business relates to another public authority in which you have a position of control or management

Or....

BUDDIANNAU EITHRIEDIG EXEMPTED INTERESTS

Parhad...

- 3. Lle bo'r mater yn ymwneud â chorff y cawsoch eich penodi gan eich Cyngor iddo
- 4. Eich rôl fel llywodraethwr ysgol (lle NA chawsoch eich penodi gan eich Cyngor) ONI BAI bod y mater yn ymwneud yn benodol â'r ysgol honno

Neu....

Contd...

- 3. Where the business relates to a body to which you have been appointed by your Council
- 4. Your role as a school governor (where NOT appointed by your Council) UNLESS the business specifically relates to that school Or.....

BUDDIANNAU EITHRIEDIG EXEMPTED INTERESTS

Parhad...

- 5. Eich rôl ar y Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol lle NA chawsoch eich penodi gan eich Cyngor
- 6. Yng nghyswllt grant/benthyciad ac ati a roddwyd gan eich Cyngor i fudiadau cymunedol neu wirfoddol hyd at uchafswm o £500.

Contd...

- 5. Your role on the LHB when NOT appointed by your Council
- 6. In relation to a grant/loan etc by your Council to a community or voluntary organisation up to a maximum of £500.

- Gall Cynghorydd â
 buddiant rhagfarnol
 wneud cais i'r Pwyllgor
 Safonau am ganiatâd i
 gael ei gynnwys mewn
 trafodaeth ar fater.
- Mae'n rhaid cyflwyno ceisiadau mewn da bryd er mwyn cynnal cyfarfod yn unol â'r rheolau ynghylch cyhoeddi agendâu ac ati.

- A CIIr with a prejudicial interest may apply to the Standards Committee for permission to be involved in a matter
- Applications must be submitted in sufficient time for a meeting to be called in accordance with rules on publishing agendas etc.

- Mae'n rhaid cyflwyno ceisiadau ar ffurflen safonol
- Gallant gael eu cyflwyno gan glerc ar ran 1 neu ragor o gynghorwyr.
- Mae'n rhaid bod y
 ceisiadau yn seiliedig ar
 un neu ragor o'r
 rhesymau canlynol:

- Applications must be submitted on a standard form
- They may be submitted by a clerk on behalf of 1 or more clirs.
- They must be based on one or more of the following grounds;

- Mae o leiaf ½ o'r cydgynghorwyr yn rhannu'r un buddiant
- Mae natur y buddiant yn golygu na fyddai'n niweidiol i'r hyder sydd gan y cyhoedd
- Mae gan y Cynghorydd arbenigedd penodol sy'n cyfiawnhau ei gyfranogiad parhaus
 - Mae'r buddiant yn gyffredin i gyfran sylweddol o'r cyhoedd

- At least ½ of fellow cllrs share the same interest
- The nature of the interest is such that it would not damage public confidence
- The CIIr has a particular expertise which justifies their contd. involvement
- The interest is common to a significant proportion of the public

•

- Mae'r mater yn ymwneud â sefydliad gwirfoddol ac mae'r Cynghorydd yn ymwneud â rôl reoli yn y sefydliad hwnnw ac nid oes ganddo unrhyw fuddiant arall yn y mater (gall siarad yn unig, ni all bleidleisio dan yr opsiwn hwn)
 - Fel sy'n briodol fel arall o dan yr holl amgylchiadau (Mae rhesymau eraill ond nid ydynt yn berthnasol i Gynghorwyr Cymuned)

- The matter relates to a vol. organisation & the Cllr is involved in its management & has no other interest in the matter (can only speak, not vote under this option)
- Otherwise appropriate in all the circumstances
- (There are other grounds available but they do not apply to Community Clirs)

Rhoddir gollyngiadau fel arfer am gyfnod penodedig
Mae gollyngiadau yn fwyaf tebygol o gael eu rhoi pan fo buddiant cynghorydd yn ymwneud â'i gysylltiad â sefydliad gwirfoddol.
Mae gollyngiadau yn llai tebygol o gael eu rhoi pan fo'r buddiant yn ymwneud â buddiannau eiddo neu fusnes personol cynghorydd

Dispensations are usually granted for a set period of time

Dispensations are most likely to be granted where a councillors interest relates to involvement in a voluntary organisation.

Dispensations are less likely to be granted where they relate to a cllr's personal business or property interests

Mae'r mwyafrif llethol o geisiadau am ollyngiadau yn cael eu caniatáu, o leiaf i siarad a gwneud sylwadau ysgrifenedig. Mae gollyngiadau i bleidleisio yn brin Dylai ceisiadau roi Ecymaint o wybodaeth â ²phosibl am fuddiant y Cynghorydd

The vast majority of dispensation applications are granted, at least to speak and make written representations. Dispensations to vote are rare

Applications should give as much information as possible about the interest that the Cllr has

GORFODAETH ENFORCEMENT



- Ombwdsmon Newydd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cymru – Michelle Morris.
- Penodwyd o 1 Ebrill2022
- New Public Services
 Ombudsman for Wales
 Michelle Morris.
- Appointed from 1st
 April 2022

GORFODAETH ENFORCEMENT

- Dylai pob cwyn ynghylch torri'r côd gael ei chyfeirio at yr Ombwdsmon a fydd yn penderfynu p'un ai i ymchwilio ai peidio.
- Nid oes gan y Cyngor Sir unrhyw bŵer i ymyrryd
- Os yw'r Ombwdsmon yn penderfynu bod yr achos yn gofyn am ymchwiliad, gall gyfeirio'r achos at y
 Swyddog Monitro lleol i
 wneud hynny

- All complaints regarding breaches of the code should be referred to the Ombudsman who will decide whether or not to investigate.
- The County Council has no power to intervene
- If the Ombudsman decides the case merits investigation, they may refer the case to the local Monitoring Officer to do so

GORFODAETH ENFORCEMENT

- Os yw ymchwiliad yn datgelu tystiolaeth o dorri rheolau, gellir cyfeirio'r achos at y Pwyllgor Safonau lleol neu Banel Dyfarnu Cymru i benderfynu arno
- Gall y Pwyllgor Safonau atal
 Cynghorydd o'i swydd
- Gall y Panel Dyfarnu wahardd Cynghorydd o'i swydd
 - Gall y ddau osod sancsiynau llai llym

- If an investigation finds evidence of a breach it may be referred to the local Standards Committee or the Adjudication Panel for Wales for determination.
- The Standards Committee can suspend a Cllr from office
- The Adjudication Panel can disqualify a CIIr from office
- Both can impose lesser sanctions

ACHOSION DIWEDDAR GERBRON Y PANEL DYFARNU RECENT ADJUDICATION PANEL CASES

Y Cynghorydd Steve Davies

Cllr. Steve Davies

Y Cynghorydd Karen Laurie-

Parry

Cllr. Karen Laurie-Parry

Y Cynghorydd Donald

Jenkins

Cllr. Donald Jenkins

Y Cynghorydd Chris Evans

Cllr. Chris Evans

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- Adran 67 dyletswydd ar Gynghorau Tref a Chymuned i gyhoeddi cynlluniau hyfforddi ar gyfer eu haelodau a'u staff
- Rhaid i'r cynllun hyfforddi cyntaf fod yn barod ac wedi'i gyhoeddi erbyn 5 Tachwedd 2022,

- Section 67 duty on **Town and Community** Councils to publish training plans for its members and staff
- The first training plan must be ready and published by 5 November 2022,

Mae yna feysydd lle dylai pob cyngor sicrhau bod ganddynt ddigon o sgiliau a dealltwriaeth. Y rhain yw:

- Y rhaglen ymsefydlu gyffredinol i gynghorwyr
- Y Côd Ymddygiad ar gyfer aelodau awdurdodau lleol
 yng Nghymru.
- ງກອ ເນຣ..., 3. Rheoli a llywodraethu ariannol.

There are areas which all councils should ensure that they have sufficient skills and understanding. These are:

- Basic induction for councillors
- 2. The Code of Conduct for members of local authorities in Wales.
- 3. Financial management and governance.

- Dylai'r cynllun hyfforddi adlewyrchu anghenion hyfforddi'r cyngor a'i gynllun ar gyfer mynd i'r afael â'r anghenion hynny.
- Rhaid i'r cynllun gael ei gymeradwyo gan y cyngor llawn cyn ei gyhoeddi.

The training plan should reflect the training needs of the council and its plan for addressing those needs.

The plan must be approved by the full council prior to publication.

Dylai'r cynllun fod o leiaf yn darparu gwybodaeth am:

- 1. Y math o hyfforddiant,
- 2. Y niferoedd sy'n cymryd rhan
- 3. Yr amserlen ar gyfer cwblhau'r hyfforddiant; a
- 4. Chost gyffredinol yr hyfforddiant

The plan should provide, as a minimum, information about:

- 1. The type of training,
- 2. Numbers participating
- 3. The timeframe over which the training is to be completed; and
- 4. The overall cost of the training

O dan adran 67(4) o Ddeddf 2021 mae dyletswydd ar gynghorau i adolygu eu cynllun hyfforddi.

Fel gofyniad lleiafswm byddai hyn yn digwydd o leiaf adeg pob etholiad cyffredin ar gyfer cynghorwyr cymuned.

Rhaid paratoi cynlluniau newydd to fewn tri mis i etholiad cyffredin ar gyfer cynghorwyr cymuned

Under section 67(4) of the 2021 Act there is duty on councils to review their training plan.

As a minimum this would be at least at every ordinary election of community councillors.

New Plans must be prepared within three months of an ordinary election of community councillors

DEDDF LLYWODRAETH LEOL AC ETHOLIADAU (CYMRU) 2021 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS (WALES) ACT 2021

Yn ymarferol, mae'n debygol y bydd angen diwygio'r cynllun yn amlach,

e.e. yn dilyn is-etholiad cyngor neu pan fydd cynghorydd cyfetholedig newydd yn ymuno; newidiadau staff; neu pan rewydd megis gwasanaethau neu asedau newydd.

In practice, the plan is likely to require revising more frequently,

e.g., following a council by-election or a new coopted councillor joining; staff changes; or taking on new responsibilities such as new services or assets.

DEDDF LLYWODRAETH LEOL AC ETHOLIADAU (CYMRU) 2021 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS (WALES) ACT 2021

- Atodlen 8 Rhoi'r un pwerau i'r Ombwdsmon â barnwr yr Uchel Lys o ran mynnu bod person yn darparu gwybodaeth/dogfennau
- Schedule 8 Gives the Ombudsman the same powers as a High Court judge to require a person to provide information/documents
- Ombudsman can require a Council to provide any facility he reasonably requires

BLE GALLWCH GAEL CYNGOR WHERE TO SEEK ADVICE

Clercod

Gallwch ofyn am gyngor y Swyddog Monitro ynghylch y Côd

Cynghorwyr

Mae'r Ombwdsmon yn nodi'n glir y dylai Cynghorwyr ofyn am gyngor gan y Clercod ynghylch materion Côd a dim ond gofyn i'r Swyddog Monitro os nad yw'r Clerc ar gael

Os yw'r Swyddog Monitro yn rhoi cyngor ar y côd yn uniongyrchol i Gynghorydd, bydd y cyngor hwnnw'n cael ei rannu â'r clerc perthnasol

Clerks

May seek advice from the Monitoring Officer in relation to the Code

Councillors

The Ombudsman makes it clear that Councillors should seek advice from their Clerks on Code issues and only approach the Monitoring Officer if the clerk is unavailable

If the Monitoring officer does provide code advice directly to a Cllr that advice will be shared with the relevant clerk

CASGLIAD CONCLUSION

- Cymerwch amser i ymgyfarwyddo â'r côd a Chanllawiau'r Ombwdsmon
- Take time to familiarise yourself with the code and the Ombudsman's Guidance
- Sicrhewch fod y rhain gennych bob amser wrth gyflawni gwaith y cyngor
- Always have them with you when conducting council business
- Defnyddiwch ollyngiadau
 i gyflawni eich rôl
 ddemocrataidd
- Make use of dispensations to fulfil your democratic role

 Os nad ydych yn siŵr -MYNNWCH GYNGOR

If unsure – SEEK ADVICE

CWESTIYNAU QUESTIONS



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Standards Committee 04/03/2024

Subject

TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT DATA GATHERING EXERCISE

Purpose:

To agree the arrangements for the 2024 code data gathering exercise.

Recommendations / key decisions required:

To agree the data to be gathered and the way the exercise is to be conducted.

Reasons:

The committee has conducted this exercise for a number of years.

Cabinet Decision Required NO

Council Decision Required NO

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Not applicable

Directorate: Chief Executives Designations: Tel: 01267 224018

Name of Head of Service: Email addresses:

Linda Rees-Jones Head of Administration

Report Author:

Robert Edgecombe Legal Services Manager

rjedgeco@carmarthenshire.gov.uk



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY STANDARDS COMMITTEE 04/03/2024

TOWN AND COMMUNITYCOUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT DATA GATHERING EXERCISE

For several years, the Standards Committee has conducted a data gathering exercise regarding code of conduct compliance by Town and Community Councillors.

The 2023 exercise included questions about Town and Community Council training plans as well as the usually questions regarding declarations of interest and code of conduct training.

Information gathered as part of the exercise is combined with other data regarding code of conduct complaints and dispensation requests and presented in a report to the committee later in the year.

The 2023 exercise saw the first use of Snap-survey software to both capture the data and present it in graph and table form. Overall, this approach seemed to work well, being easy for Councils to use and saving a considerable amount of officer time in collating the responses.

It is recommended that this software again be used.

A copy of the proposed questions is attached to this report. Four additional questions have been added dealing with the adoption od review of Council training plans.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	YES



IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: Linda Rees-Jones Head of Administration and Law

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Manage- ment Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets	Bio- diversity & Climate Change
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE



CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:						
Signed:	Linda Rees Jones	Head of Admin	istration and Law			
	Scrutiny Committee request for determination	rpre-	NA			
Scruti	ny Committee					
Date tl	he report was considered:-					
	ny Committee Outcome/Recom					
2.Local NA	Member(s)					
3.Comn NA	nunity / Town Council					
4.Relev NA	4.Relevant Partners NA					
5.Staff S	5.Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations NA					



CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED	NA			
NA				
Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:				
THERE ARE NONE				





CODE DATA QUESTIONS

- 1. For the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024, how many declarations of interest were recorded by your authority under the member's code
- 2. For the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024 did any of the members and/or clerk receive training on the code of conduct (answer would be YES, NO or NOT KNOWN)
- 3. Has your Council adopted a training plan for its members as required by the Local Government and elections (Wales) Act 2021 (answer would be YES, NO or NOT KNOWN)
- 4. If the Answer to Q.3 is YES, has the training plan been published on your Council's website (answer would be YES, NO or the Council has no website)
- 5. If the answer to Q.3 is No, when will the Council be adopting a Training Plan?
- 6. If the Answer to Q.3 is YES, does the training plan require members to undertake code of conduct training (answer would be YES or NO)
- 7. If the answer to Q.3 is YES, has the training plan been implemented and members received training in accordance with it? (answer would be YES, NO or NOT KNOWN)
- 8. If the answer to Q.3 is YES has the training plan been reviewed since it was adopted? (answer would be YES, NO or NOT KNOWN)
- 9. If the answer to Q.7 is YES, when was the training plan reviewed?
- 10. If the answer to Q.7 is NO, when will the training plan be reviewed?



Standards Committee 04/03/2024

Subject

Dispensation Request by Councillor Roderick Griffiths

Purpose:

To consider the request.

Recommendations / key decisions required:

Determine whether to grant the request and, if granted, the duration of the dispensation.

Reasons:

In accordance with the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001.

Cabinet Decision Required NO

Council Decision Required NO

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Not applicable

Directorate: Chief Executives | Designations: Tel: 01267 224018

Name of Head of Service: Email addresses:

Linda Rees-Jones Head of Administration

and Law

Report Author:

Robert Edgecombe

Legal Services Manager

iiu Law



rjedgeco@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY STANDARDS COMMITTEE 04/03/2024

Dispensation Request by Councillor Roderick Griffiths

A dispensation request has been received from Community Councillor Roderick Griffiths of Llansteffan and Llanybri Community Council.

The application relates to Council business regarding 'The Green' in Llansteffan, particularly proposed changes to the north section of 'The Green'. Councillor Griffiths would have a personal and prejudicial interest in such business as

- he/his family owns land adjoining 'The Green'
- his family has the benefit of a restrictive covenant over part of the land in question. This
 covenant places restrictions on what can be done with, and on, land conveyed to the
 Council in 1980. This land forms part of the area covered by the proposed changes to
 'The Green'
- his family own a business operating on land adjoining to The Green

Councillor Griffiths seeks dispensation to speak and to make written representations on the following grounds in the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001.

- 1. Regulation 2(d) the nature of the members interest in such that their participating in the business to which the interest relates would not damage public confidence.
- 2. Regulation 2(f) the participation of the member in the business to which the interest relates is justified by the member's particular role or expertise.

If a dispensation were to be granted, the Committee will also need to determine its duration.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	NO



IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: Linda Rees-Jones Head of Administration and Law

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Manage- ment Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets	Bio- diversity & Climate Change
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE



CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:			
Signed:	Linda Rees-Jones	Head of Administ	ration and Law
1. Scru	itiny Committee request for pre-d	letermination	NA
Scrutin	y Committee		
Date th	e report was considered:-		
Scrutin	y Committee Outcome/Recomme	endations:-	
	Member(s)		
NA			
3.Comm	unity / Town Council		
NA	•		
45.	(D)		
4.Releva	int Partners		
NA.			
5.Staff S	ide Representatives and other O	rganisations	
NA			
CABINE	T MEMBER PORTFOLIO	NA	
	R(S) AWARE/CONSULTED		
0 11	NO	0 4	
	100D Local Government Act, 1972 ackground Papers used in the pr		



THERE ARE NONE



APPLICATION TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE FOR DISPENSATION

Please note that each section MUST be completed. Please refer to the attached Guidance Notes when completing the form.

1. YOUR DETAILS
Your full name: Roderick Griffiths
Name of your Council: Llansteffan & Llanybri Community Council
Email address: @gmail.com
2. DETAILS OF YOUR INTEREST
What is the matter under consideration? Matters relating to The Green, Llansteffan. Improvements are planned to the north section of The Green which require agreement between three parties - the County Council, the Community Council and the Covenant-holder.
What is your interest in the above matter? My land boundaries The Green, Llansteffan, which is partly owned by Llansteffan and Llanybri Community Council. My family maintains a constant covenant over the area of the land.
When will the above matter be considered? The County Council is in receipt of a Brilliant Basics Grant for improvements to The Green, Llansteffan. Carmarthenshire County Council is working with the Community Council and Covenant-holder over the coming year to make improvements to the amenity and to parking on The Green. The project is due to be completed by the end of 2024.
Are you applying for dispensation to:
Speak only: ✓ ☐ Speak and vote: ☐
Make written Exercise Executive Representations ✓ □ Powers □

3. GROUNDS FOR DISPENSATION

Regulations issued by the National Assembly for Wales prescribe the circumstances in which the Standards Committee may grant a dispensation. These grounds for granting a dispensation are summarised below and are set out in full in the attached guidance notes. On which of the following grounds do you believe that a dispensation should be granted in this case? Please tick the appropriate box(es).

•	at least half of the members considering the business has an interest	
•	my inability to participate would upset the political balance of the meeting to such an extent that the outcome would be likely to be affected;	
•	my participation would not damage public confidence	√□
٠	the interest is common to me and a significant proportion of the general public;	
•	my participation in the business is justified by my particular role or expertise;	✓□
•	the business is to be considered by an overview and scrutiny committee and my interest is not a pecuniary interest;	
•	the business relates to the finances or property of a voluntary organisation of whose management committee or board I am a member and I have no other interest	

PLEASE REFER TO THE ATTACHED DOCUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF MY DISPENSATION REQUEST.

Please set out below the reasons why you consider that the Standards Committee should grant
a dispensation in this case:
(Please note that failure to complete this section will result in the application form being returned to you)
PLEASE REFER TO THE ATTACHED DOCUMENTS IN
SUPPORT OF MY DISPENSATION REQUEST.

7.					
(please	continue on a separate sheet if i	necessary)			
that this	that the information provided or application and all the information dards Committee. I request a dis	on contained w	ithin it may form part	of a public repo	
Signed:	W R Griffiths	Date:	05 / 02 / 2024		
Please retu	rn this form to the Monitoring Office	er, Chief Execu	tive's Department, Car	marthenshire Cou	nty
Council, Co	ounty Hall, Carmarthen, SA31 1JP.	/ Monitoringoffi	cer@carmarthenshire.	gov.uk	

Guidance notes

(1) Please read through the Code of Conduct and decide which of the paragraphs is most appropriate to your case. Brief details of the relevant paragraphs are noted in the table below. If you are unsure, please contact the Monitoring Officer for advice.

Para.	Type of personal interest	
10(2)(a)	 Council business which relates to or is likely to affect: your employment or business, your employer, firm or company a contract made between the Council and you any land, lease or licence in which you have an interest a public body or other association in which you have membership or hold a position of general control or management 	
10(2)(b)	Council business in which there may be a conflict between your decision-making role and your role in representing constituents in your ward	
10(2)(c)	Council business which affects your well-being or financial position, or the well-being, financial position or other interests of a person with whom you live or have a close personal association	en e
13	Council business which is being considered by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee and which relates to a decision of the Cabinet or another Committee of which you were a member at the time [County Council only]	

- (2) The Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations)(Wales) Regulations 2001 state that a Standards Committee may grant dispensations where:
 - (a) no fewer than half of the members of the relevant authority or of a committee of the authority (as the case may be) by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business;
 - (b) no fewer than half of the members of a leader and cabinet executive of the relevant authority by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business and either paragraph (d) or (e) also applies;
 - (c) in the case of a county or county borough council, the inability of the member to participate would upset the political balance of the relevant authority or of the committee of the authority by which the business is to be considered to such an extent that the outcome would be likely to be affected;
 - (d) the nature of the member's interest is such that the member's participation in the business to which the interest relates would not damage public confidence in the conduct of the relevant authority's business;
 - (e) the interest is common to the member and a significant proportion of the general public;
 - (f) the participation of the member in the business to which the interest relates is justified by the member's particular role or expertise;
 - (g) the business to which the interest relates is to be considered by an overview and scrutiny committee of the relevant authority and the member's interest is not a pecuniary interest;
 - (h) the business which is to be considered relates to the finances or property of a voluntary organisation of whose management committee or board the member is a member

- otherwise than as a representative of the relevant authority and the member has no other interest in that business provided that any dispensation shall not extend to participation in any vote with respect to that business; or
- (i) it appears to the committee to be in the interests of the inhabitants of the area of the relevant authority that the disability should be removed provided that written notification of the grant of the dispensation is given to the National Assembly for Wales within seven days in such manner as it may specify.

Please set out below the reasons why you consider that the Standards Committee should grant a dispensation in this case:

(Please note that failure to complete this section will result in the application form being returned to you)

THE LAND AND MY INTERESTS:

The Green is mostly owned by Carmarthenshire County Council, except for a strip to the north-west which is owned by Llansteffan and Llanybri Community Council (see attached map 1).

- 1: The Community Council-owned land boundaries my land at the Cottage Fields. My wife's family has farmed this land for generations, and our home overlooks the land and The Green. (see map 2)
- 2: A small strip of land which accesses the northern parking area of the Green is owned by my family. (see map 2)
- 3: My sister-in-law and my wife are joint owners of a small plot which has boundaries to the Village Green and my sister-in-law and her partner run a mobile coffee-pod from this location. (see map 2)
- 4: My wife's family, the Lloyds of Cottage Farm, are the holders of a Deed of Covenant which applies to the northern section of The Green. As previous owners of this part of The Green, the covenant was made in 1981 on the transfer of the land from the Lloyd Family to Carmarthen District Council and Llansteffan Community Council. There are no financial implications to the covenant and the family does not benefit financially. The covenant is extant and applies only to uses of the land in perpetuity. (attached)

CURRENT CONTEXT:

1: CAR PARK - BRILLIANT BASICS PROJECT

The northern section of The Green has suffered neglect over many years, and while being used as a car park for many years prior to its registration as Village Green, it has never been maintained as such due to its registration. Following the Carmarthenshire County Council Leader-funded Llansteffan Consultation in 2022, the County Council and the Community Council are now working together to design significant improvements to this area for the benefit of locals and visitors alike. The granting of a Brilliant Basics Award in 2023 to fund improvements to parking and amenity is welcomed and both councils are anxious to see the project succeed. The project requires the support and consent of three parties - the County Council, the Community Council and the Covenant-holder. It is necessary for all three parties to be represented in meetings, and I need to be able to be present in my capacity as Covenant-holder in these meetings.

In meetings of the Community Council when this matter is on the agenda I feel it's necessary to be permitted to take part in presenting information and discussing the plans, but not to vote. Not being able to participate could result in the Community Council not being fully informed, and I believe the community I represent would expect me to help facilitate the best possible outcome for this development.

2: COCKLE GATHERING

Llansteffan is part of the Three-Rivers Cockle Fishery which is fished seasonally. The fishery is managed by Welsh Government Marine & Fisheries. Cockle-gatherers access the beach at Llansteffan to fish the Three-Rivers cockle beds, and pass through the north parking area of The Green to reach the beach (see Map 2). In 2019 (?) I allowed the cockle-gatherers to use my field, adjacent to the car park, to load their catch onto the trailers for safe removal to the processing plants. This was a private arrangement between myself and a cockle processing company for which I received recompense. During the following years no such arrangement has been in place and they have not used my land.

The most important local factor in the cockle-gathering issues is that of public safety. There is a Llansteffan & Llanybri Fisheries Stakeholder Group, which includes Welsh Government Marine & Fisheries managers and enforcement officers, Dyfed-Powys Police, the Community Council and the Cockle Processors. The group meets periodically each season and plans access for the cocklers which protects the safety of the public to the best of our ability. I am a member of this group as a private landowner and covenant-holder, and I will continue to be a part of this group in order to facilitate the safest possible way for the gatherers to access the beach. At present the gatherers are conducting all their activity on the beach, which is outside anyone's control. Should it be deemed necessary over coming years to consider using my land for the catch transfer once again for reasons of public safety, I will need to work with the Stakeholder Group and the Community Council to co-ordinate the plans. The Brilliant Basics plan to improve the Green hopes to facilitate a safer access to the cockle beds, so the development and the access for cocklers are inseparable. The Brilliant Basics scheme will, hopefully, address both issues - and this is an opportunity to resolve two complex issues at the same time.

As above, in meetings of the Community Council when this matter is on the agenda I feel it's necessary to be permitted to take part in presenting information and discussing the plans, but not to vote. <u>Not</u> being able to participate could result in the Community Council not being fully informed, and I believe the community I represent would expect me to help facilitate the safest possible operation of the cockle-fishing industry in Llansteffan.

3: COASTAL DELIGHTS

Coastal Delights is a mobile "pod" selling coffee, snacks etc. on the land owned by my wife's family adjacent to the Green. The business is run by my sister-in-law and her partner. I have no financial interest in this business.

I have no business interests in this enterprise, but it's owned and run by members of my family. It could be percieved that any improvements to the Village Green would benefit this business, and so I have a prejudicial interest as a Community Councillor. The interest is covered in Section 1 above in matters regarding the development of the Green and my family's general interest as land-owners adjacent to the Green.

MY ROLE AS COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR

I was co-opted to Llansteffan and Llanybri Community Council in June 2022. I have always declared an interest in agenda items pertaining to The Green, however, with the imminent improvement programme there are occasions when discussions need to be inclusive and the contributions of all parties need to be aired openly within the meeting setting. It is vital that plans for the completion of the development are not

delayed, and my inability to provide information or answer questions due to my interest is likely to be an impediment to progressing the project.

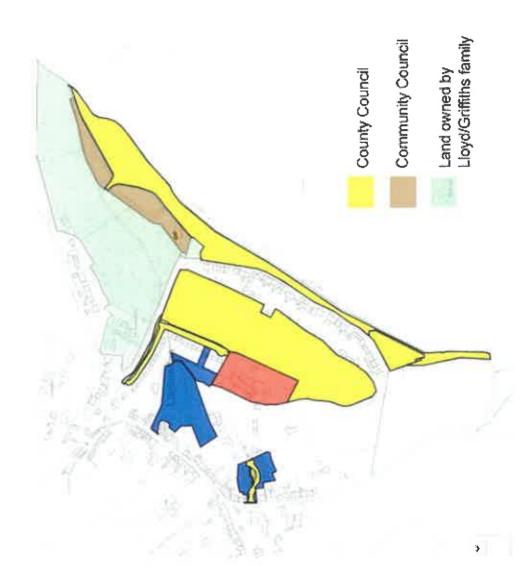
I am not seeking a dispensation to vote on any matters pertaining to The Green. My request is to speak and write as and when appropriate or required. I was elected to the Community Council as a native of Llansteffan and Llanybri, with local knowledge and experience. As with many rural villages, Community Councillors are a blend of "old" locals and "new" locals. With the retirement in 2022 of two "old" local Councillors there was a gap in local knowledge as regards history, events, records, maps etc. and I am able to contribute to filling that gap. That is my strength. However, in a small community there will be conflicts of interests if local land-owners become Community Councillors, even though their contribution to council business is vital. I feel that I am unable to properly exercise the trust invested in me if I cannot participate, within limitations, in matters which will deliver huge improvements for our community. Without a dispensation, it may not be possible to progress the Village Green Brilliant Basics plan or improve arrangements for the Three-Rivers Fishery as all parties will not be permitted to hold open discussions.

The Community Council has appointed a sub-committee to deal with matters pertaining to The Green, of which I am not a member. This sub-committee does have not have decision-making powers, and its function is to make recommendations to full council. One such meeting has been held to date, which I attended as a representative of the Lloyd family as covenant-holder and not in my capacity as Community Councillor. However, in general full Council discussions it is sometimes necessary to provide historical or contextual information, and I feel it is important that all parties involved in improving the amenity of The Green work together to ensure the best possible outcome.

The interests of the village residents are the priority, and the requested dispensation would permit me to work alongside both the County, the Community Council and other parties to this end.

Dwy wedi cael ei geni a chodi ac byw erioed yn pentrefi Llanybri a Llansteffan.

Diolch vn fawr iawn.



Standards Committee 04/03/2024

Subject

Dispensation Request by Councillor Mary Margaret Wenman

Purpose:

To consider the request.

Recommendations / key decisions required:

Determine whether to grant the request and, if granted, the duration of the dispensation.

Reasons:

In accordance with the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001.

Cabinet Decision Required NO

Council Decision Required NO

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-Not applicable

Directorate: Chief Executives Tel: 01267 224018 Designations:

Name of Head of Service: Email addresses:

Linda Rees-Jones **Head of Administration**

and Law

Report Author: Robert Edgecombe

Legal Services Manager

Cyngor Sir Gâr Carmarthenshire County Council

rjedgeco@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY STANDARDS COMMITTEE 04/03/2024

Dispensation Request by Councillor Mary Margaret Wenman

A dispensation request has been received from Town Councillor Mary Margaret Wenman of Burry Port and Pembrey Town Council.

The application relates to Council business regarding the former Copperworks School in Burry Port. Councillor Wenman would have a personal and prejudicial interest in such business as she is the Chair of the 'Friends of the Copperworks' a voluntary organisation which wishes to influence the Town Council over the future of the remaining building on the site and lease it. The application also references Cllr Wenman's membership of 'the Heritage and Historical society', but it is unclear from the application what direct interest this group has in the Copperworks site.

Councillor Wenman seeks dispensation to Speak and Vote and to make written representations on the following grounds in the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001.

- 1. Regulation 2(a) no fewer than half the members of the relevant authority by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business.
- 2. Regulation 2(d) the nature of the members interest in such that their participating in the business to which the interest relates would not damage public confidence.
- 3. Regulation 2(e) the interest is common to the member and a significant proportion of the general public.
- 4. Regulation 2(f) the participation of the member in the business to which the interest relates is justified by the member's particular role or expertise
- 5. Regulation 2(g) the business to which the interest relates is to be considered by an overview or scrutiny committee and the members interest is not a pecuniary interest.

Of these grounds, Regulations 2(e) and 2(g) are unlikely to apply and there is nothing in the application to support the ground under Regulation 2(a). Regulations 2(d) and 2(f) would however appear to apply.

If the committee is minded to grant the dispensation, its duration will also need to be determined

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	NO



IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: Linda Rees-Jones Head of Administration and Law

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Manage- ment Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets	Bio- diversity & Climate Change
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE



CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:						
Signed:	Linda Rees-Jones	Head of Administration and Law				
1. Scru	itiny Committee request for pre-d	letermination	NA			
Scrutin	y Committee					
Date th	e report was considered:-					
Scrutin	y Committee Outcome/Recomme	endations:-				
	Member(s)					
NA						
3.Comm	unity / Town Council					
NA	•					
45.						
4.Releva	nt Partners					
NA.	NA .					
5.Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations						
NA						
CABINE	T MEMBER PORTFOLIO	NA				
	R(S) AWARE/CONSULTED					
0 11	NO	0 4				
Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:						



THERE ARE NONE

APPLICATION TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE FOR DISPENSATION

Please note that each section MUST be completed. Please refer to the attached Guidance Notes when completing the form.

Your full name:	MARY	MARGARE.	t W	ENMAN	
Name of your Co	ouncil: Bu	DRRY PORT	AND !	DEMBREY T. C.	
Your address and	d postcode:				
Contact telephon	ne number(s):	海上			
Email address:		y Com M			
. DETAILS OF Y	OUR INTERE	ST			
What is the matte	er under cone	ideration?			
A L	t under cons	iueration:)	1 1 1 1	
of tack	and prop	wood rega	soling th	e felor of the	d s
What is your inte	rest in the ab	ove matter?			ds.
What is your inte	rest in the ab				de s
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What is your inte	rest in the ab	ove matter? of the Co			ls:
What is your inte	ove matter be	ove matter? of the Co considered?			els s
What is your inte	ove matter be	ove matter? of the Coeconsidered? etheretion to:		oles	els.

3. GROUNDS FOR DISPENSATION

Regulations issued by the National Assembly for Wales prescribe the circumstances in which the Standards Committee may grant a dispensation. These grounds for granting a dispensation are summarised below and are set out in full in the attached guidance notes. On which of the following grounds do you believe that a dispensation should be granted in this case? Please tick the appropriate box(es).

•	at least half of the members considering the business has an interest	7
•	my inability to participate would upset the political balance of the meeting to such an extent that the outcome would be likely to be affected;	
•	my participation would not damage public confidence	\mathbf{Z}
•	the interest is common to me and a significant proportion of the general public;	V
	my participation in the business is justified by my particular role or expertise;	7
٠	the business is to be considered by an overview and scrutiny committee and my interest is not a pecuniary interest;	
•	the business relates to the finances or property of a voluntary organisation of whose management committee or board I am a member and I have no other interest	
•	it is appropriate to do so in all the circumstances where not otherwise possible to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate a person's disability	

4. INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF YOUR APPLICATION

Please set out below the reasons why you consider that the Standards Committee should grant a dispensation in this case;

(Please note that failure to complete this section will result in the application form being

returned to you)

would like to put forward a case for the to keep the Coppernortes school as an asset and to lease it to the friends of the Copperworks so that they can secure two for the building. The To does with hove the finance to refurbish the building bur he Friends of the Coppenious hope to draw down juding in order to make the necessary upgrades & reprotoishmen As chair of the Friends of the Coppens I can present the case for learning the building to a community group with to preserve the building as it is pristoric unique The lion's share of the Coppenortes was sold four years ago informately and this is the last opportunity to calvage some history of the remaining small building on the site. The milt by the Coppermasters Mason Elkington.

be would like the council to preserve this building, pease it and the community group then could acres funds to develop multi propose certre for the neigh I have no planning interest at all; only as a member of the Heitage and Historical Society a desire to the building and to try to develop this as an arret for the Unfortunately the lion's share this site was world to andy Bowl w years ago and it is sad lose historic tuedings to

(please continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

I confirm that the information provided on this form is true to the best of my knowledge. I agree	,
that this application and all the information contained within it may form part of a public report t	0
the Standards Committee. I request a dispensation in respect of the above matter.	

Signed: /h_lue____

Date: 24/01/2

Please return this form to the Monitoring Officer, Chief Executive's Department, Carmarthenshire County Council, County Hall, Carmarthen, SA31 1JP.

Guidance notes

Standards Committee 04/03/2024

Subject

Group Dispensation Request on behalf of Members of Lianliawddog Community Council

Purpose:

To consider the request.

Recommendations / key decisions required:

Determine whether to grant the request and, if granted, the duration of the dispensation.

Reasons:

In accordance with the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001.

Cabinet Decision Required NO

Council Decision Required NO

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Not applicable

Directorate: Chief Executives | Designations: Tel: 01267 224018

Name of Head of Service: Email addresses:

Linda Rees-Jones Head of Administration

and Law

Report Author:

Robert Edgecombe

Legal Services Manager

Cyngor Sir Gâr
Carmarthenshire
County Council

rjedgeco@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY STANDARDS COMMITTEE 04/03/2024

Group Dispensation Request on behalf of Members of Lianliawddog Community Council

A group dispensation request has been received from the clerk to Llanllawddog Community Council in respect of 6 of the 7 current members of that authority. The application seeks dispensation for each councillor to speak and vote and make written representations.

The application relates to Council business regarding the Towy/Teifi overhead line proposed by Green Gen Cymru/Bute Energy. Details of each councillor's personal interest is set out in the appendix to the application.

Dispensation is sought on the following grounds in the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001.

- 1. Regulation 2(a) no fewer than half the members of the relevant authority by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business.
- 2. Regulation 2(d) the nature of the members interest in such that their participating in the business to which the interest relates would not damage public confidence.

The committee has, to date, granted dispensation to a total of 13 councillors to speak or speak and make written representations in respect of the same/similar Bute Energy projects in the County. It has also refused 1 application. So far, no dispensation has been granted to speak and vote.

If the committee is minded to grant the dispensation, its duration will also need to be determined.

NO



IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: Linda Rees-Jones Head of Administration and Law

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Manage- ment Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets	Bio- diversity & Climate Change
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE



CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:				
Signed:	Linda Rees-Jones	Head of Administ	ration and Law	
1. Scru	tiny Committee request for pre-det	ermination	NA	
Scrutin	y Committee			
Date th	e report was considered:-			
Scrutin	y Committee Outcome/Recommend	dations:-		
2.Local I	Member(s)			
NA	(4)			
	unity / Town Council			
NA				
4 Polova	nt Partners			
NA	nt Farthers			
5.Staff S	ide Representatives and other Orga	anisations		
NA				
CARINE	T MEMBER PORTFOLIO	NA		
	(S) AWARE/CONSULTED			
	NO			
	Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information			
LIST OF B	ackground Papers used in the prep	aration of this	report:	
THERE A	THERE ARE NONE			





APPLICATION TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE FOR DISPENSATION

Please note that each section MUST be completed. Please refer to the attached Guidance Notes when completing the form.

1. YOUR DETAILS			
Your full name: Richard Andrew Rees (Clerk)			
Name of your Council: Llanllawddog Community Council			
Email address: ccllanllawddogcc@gmail.com			
2. DETAILS OF YOUR INTEREST			
Z. DETAILS OF TOOK INTEREST			
What is the matter under consideration? Consultation on proposed Towy / Teifi new overhead line for new renewable energy by Green Gen Cymru / Bute Energy			
What is your interest in the above matter? The application for dispensation is made on behalf of the Councillors of Llanllawddog Community Council. The Council comprises of 8 Councillors, but there is currently 1 recent vacancy which has been advertised. A list of the Councillors along with their interests is attached.			
When will the above matter be considered?			
Not known at this stage.			
Are you applying for dispensation to:			
Speak only:			
Make written Exercise Executive Representations ✓ Powers			

3. GROUNDS FOR DISPENSATION

Regulations issued by the National Assembly for Wales prescribe the circumstances in which the Standards Committee may grant a dispensation. These grounds for granting a dispensation are summarised below and are set out in full in the attached guidance notes. On which of the following grounds do you believe that a dispensation should be granted in this case? Please tick the appropriate box(es).

•	at least half of the members considering the business has an interest	✓
•	my inability to participate would upset the political balance of the meeting to such an extent that the outcome would be likely to be affected;	
•	my participation would not damage public confidence	✓
•	the interest is common to me and a significant proportion of the general public;	
•	my participation in the business is justified by my particular role or expertise;	
•	the business is to be considered by an overview and scrutiny committee and my interest is not a pecuniary interest;	
•	the business relates to the finances or property of a voluntary organisation of whose management committee or board I am a member and I have no other interest	

4. INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF YOUR APPLICATION

Please set out below the reasons why you consider that the Standards Committee should grant a dispensation in this case:

(Please note that failure to complete this section will result in the application form being returned to you)

Llanllawddog Community Council has recently been consulted by Green Gen Cymru on its proposal for the construction of an overhead line and pylons on its Towy Teifi renewable energy project. This is the first of 3 consultations which Green Gen Cymru will be consulting the Community Council on. The second consultation is due to take place during 2025 with a final consultation in 2026, prior to its submission to PEDW for determination.

The renewable energy project is of great significance to the community of Llanllawddog, which comprises the villages of Pontarsais and Rhydargaeau (population 750) and its impact will be felt and visible to every resident. The preferred route and potential optional routes all run straight through Llanllawddog Community Council's area.

As stated in Section 2 above, the Council currently has 7 Members, of which, 6 Members have
an interest in the proposal by Green Gen Cymru. Should the application for dispensation not be
granted, all but one of the Members would not be able to consider making written
representations or vote on the consultation and subsequent consultations or represent the
interests of residents.

(nlease d	continue on a separate sheet if necessary)	
(picase (continue on a separate sheet ii necessary)	
I confirm	that the information provided on this form is true to the best of my knowledge	e. I agree
	application and all the information contained within it may form part of a publi	
the Stanc	dards Committee. I request a dispensation in respect of the above matter.	P
uie Staffe		
	07 /00 /0004	
Signed.	Date: 07 / 02 /2024	

Please return this form to the Monitoring Officer, Chief Executive's Department, Carmarthenshire County Council, County Hall, Carmarthen, SA31 1JP. / Monitoringofficer@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Date:

Signed:

Guidance notes

(1) Please read through the Code of Conduct and decide which of the paragraphs is most appropriate to your case. Brief details of the relevant paragraphs are noted in the table below. If you are unsure, please contact the Monitoring Officer for advice.

Para.	Type of personal interest	
10(2)(a)	Council business which relates to or is likely to affect: • your employment or business, • your employer, firm or company • a contract made between the Council and you • any land, lease or licence in which you have an interest • a public body or other association in which you have membership or hold a position of general control or management	
10(2)(b)	Council business in which there may be a conflict between your decision-making role and your role in representing constituents in your ward	
10(2)(c)	Council business which affects your well-being or financial position, or the well-being, financial position or other interests of a person with whom you live or have a close personal association	
13	Council business which is being considered by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee and which relates to a decision of the Cabinet or another Committee of which you were a member at the time [County Council only]	

- .
- (2) The Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations)(Wales) Regulations 2001 state that a Standards Committee may grant dispensations where:
 - (a) no fewer than half of the members of the relevant authority or of a committee of the authority (as the case may be) by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business;
 - (b) no fewer than half of the members of a leader and cabinet executive of the relevant authority by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business and either paragraph (d) or (e) also applies;
 - (c) in the case of a county or county borough council, the inability of the member to participate would upset the political balance of the relevant authority or of the committee of the authority by which the business is to be considered to such an extent that the outcome would be likely to be affected;
 - (d) the nature of the member's interest is such that the member's participation in the business to which the interest relates would not damage public confidence in the conduct of the relevant authority's business;
 - (e) the interest is common to the member and a significant proportion of the general public;
 - (f) the participation of the member in the business to which the interest relates is justified by the member's particular role or expertise;
 - (g) the business to which the interest relates is to be considered by an overview and scrutiny committee of the relevant authority and the member's interest is not a pecuniary interest;

- (h) the business which is to be considered relates to the finances or property of a voluntary organisation of whose management committee or board the member is a member otherwise than as a representative of the relevant authority and the member has no other interest in that business provided that any dispensation shall not extend to participation in any vote with respect to that business; or
- (i) it appears to the committee to be in the interests of the inhabitants of the area of the relevant authority that the disability should be removed provided that written notification of the grant of the dispensation is given to the National Assembly for Wales within seven days in such manner as it may specify.

Llanllawddog Community Council Declarations of Interest – Proposed Green Gen Cymru Towy Teifi Renewable Energy Project

Name of Councillor	Interest	Dispensation Request
Deborah Dean	Proposed route 5A and 5W of the pylons and overhead cable bisects the road I live on and passes next to a property which is 4 residences from my home. The pylons and cable will have a detrimental visual impact.	To participate and vote at meetings of Llanllawddog Community Council and public meetings attended in the role of Councillor and to make written representations.
Elizabeth Gibbon	Proposed route 4E of the pylons and overhead cable runs directly through my property and farming business. The Director of Community Investment of Bute Energy is known to me. I work part-time for the DPJ Foundation which is one of Bute Energy's chosen charities.	To participate and vote at meetings of Llanllawddog Community Council and public meetings attended in the role of Councillor and to make written representations.
Havard Hughes	The preferred route 4E passes immediately the east and south of my property. Proposed route 5A and 5W of the pylons and overhead cable pass immediately to the west and south of my property and field.	To participate and vote at meetings of Llanllawddog Community Council and public meetings attended in the role of Councillor and to make written representations.
Darrell Lewis	Proposed route 5A and 5W of the pylons and overhead cable bisects the road I live on and passes next to a property next to my home. The pylons and cable will have a detrimental visual impact.	To participate and vote at meetings of Llanllawddog Community Council and public meetings attended in the role of Councillor and to make written representations.
Steven Mason	Proposed route 5A and 5W of the pylons and overhead cable bisects the road I live on and is in close proximity to my home.	To participate and vote at meetings of Llanllawddog Community Council and public meetings attended in the role of

	The pylons and cable will have a detrimental visual impact.	Councillor and to make written representations.
Peter Williams	Daughter's property is within the consultation zone for the routes of the pylons and cables.	To participate and vote at meetings of Llanllawddog Community Council and public meetings attended in the role of Councillor and to make written representations.

Note: Councillors Dean, Lewis and Mason live on the same road in Rhydargaeau which explains the reason for their interests being similar. Councillor Lewis lives three doors away from Councillor Dean, who lives directly opposite to Councillor Mason.

Standards Committee 04/03/2024

Subject

FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2024-2025

Purpose:

To agree the Committee's Forward Work Programme foe 2024-2025.

Recommendations / key decisions required:

To agree the programme.

Reasons:

Report Author:

This will help structure the work of the committee.

Cabinet Decision Required NO

Council Decision Required NO

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Not applicable

Directorate: Chief Executives Designations: Tel: 01267 224018

Name of Head of Service: Head of Administration Email addresses:

and Law rjdgeco@camarthensire.gov

Linda Rees-Jones

Robert Edgecombe Legal Services Manager



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 04/03/2024

FORWARD WORK PRO	GRAMME 2024-2025
In 2023 the Committee resolved to adopt a Forw municipal year, which would set out then particular	
As the current municipal year draws to a close, a been prepared based upon the schedule of standard	
A copy of the draft programme is attached for ap	pproval.
DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	YES



IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: Linda Rees-Jones Head of Administration and Law

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Manage- ment Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets	Bio- diversity & Climate Change
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:					
Signed: Linda Rees-Jones	Head of Adn	f Administration and Law			
		T			
Scrutiny Committee request for determination	r pre-	NA			
Scrutiny Committee	NA				
Date the report was considered:-	NA				
2.Local Member(s)					
3.Community / Town Council NA					
4.Relevant Partners NA					
5.Staff Side Representatives and other NA	Organisations				



CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED	NA			
NA				
Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:				
THERE ARE NONE				





Subject	Report Summary	When	Responsible Director	Report Author
Review of Action Log	Reviewing the Committee action log to note progress on agreed actions and identify additional actions for inclusion	May 2024 September 2024 December 2024 March 2025	Wendy Walters	Robert Edgecombe
Review of Whistleblowing Policy	Review the operation of the policy during 2022-2023 and identify any changes required to the policy itself	May 2024	Wendy Walters	Robert Edgecombe
Group Leaders Duty	Consider the information provided by the Political Group Leaders on the council in relation to their duties under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021	April 2024	Wendy Walters	Robert Edgecombe
Annual Report to Full Council	Consider the draft Annual Report to be presented to Full Council in accordance with the committee's duties under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021	May 2024	Wendy Walters	Robert Edgecombe
Review of Disciplinary Hearing procedure	Review the procedure for the conduct of disciplinary hearings against councillors	May 2024	Wendy Walters	Robert Edgecombe
Review of Annual Code of Conduct Training exercise	Review the annual code of conduct training provided to Town and Community Councillors	September 2024	Wendy Walters	Robert Edgecombe

Subject	Summary	Date(s)	Responsible Director	Report Author
Ombudsman's Annual	Consider the Annual Report	September 2024	Wendy Walters	Robert Edgecombe
Report	issued by the Ombudsman			
	and identify any actions			
	arising			
Annual Code of Conduct	Review the responses	September 2024	Wendy Walters	Robert Edgecombe
data exercise	received from Town and			
	Community Councils to the			
	annual request for Code of			
	Conduct data			
Group Leaders Duty	Agree the advice and	December 2024	Wendy Walters	Robert Edgecombe
	guidance to be given the			
	Political Group Leaders			
	regarding the preparation of			
	their annual reports to			
	Standards Committee under			
	the Local Government and			
	Elections (Wales) Act 2021			
Code of Conduct Training	Agree the arrangements for	March 2025	Wendy Walters	Robert Edgecombe
	Code of Conduct Training for			
	Town and Community			
	Councillors later in the year			
Code of Conduct Data	Agree the scope and nature	March 2025	Wendy Walters	Robert Edgecombe
Exercise	of the data to be gathered			
Protocol for Dealing with	Review the Protocol and the	December 2024	Wendy Walters	Robert Edgecombe
Low Level Code Complaints	complaints dealt with			
Dispensation Requests	Determine Requests for	To be confirmed when	Wendy Walters	Robert Edgecombe
•	dispensation as and when received	requests received		

Disciplinary Hearings	Deal with breaches of the Code of conduct following any referral from the Ombudsman	To be confirmed when a referral is received	Wendy Walters	Robert Edgecombe
Forward Work Plan	Agree the Forward Work Plan for 2024-2025	March 2025	Wendy Walters	Robert Edgecombe

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