

# STANDARDS COMMITTEE

## 28<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017

### PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES ANNUAL REPORT 2016/2017

#### Recommendations / key decisions required:

To consider the report

#### Reasons:

The subject matter of this report falls within the remit of the Committee

Scrutiny Committee recommendations / comments:

Not applicable

Exec Board Decision Required NO

Council Decision Required NO

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr E Dole (Leader)

Directorate

Chief Executives

Name of Head of Service:

Linda Rees-Jones

Report Author:

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Designations:

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY STANDARDS COMMITTEE 28<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017

## PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES ANNUAL REPORT 2016/2017

The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) has published his annual report and accounts for 2016/2017. A copy of the report is attached.

The key points from the report are as follows;

1. A 13% increase in maladministration enquiries and complaints across Wales
2. A 14% reduction in code of conduct complaints across Wales
3. A 19% increase in the number of code complaints investigated
4. A 38% increase in the number of code investigations which uncovered evidence of a breach of the code

Of the case where evidence of a breach was uncovered, six cases were referred either to the relevant local authority standards committee or the Adjudication Panel for Wales, the same figure as in the previous year.

The bulk of code complaints related to the promotion of equality and respect (37%) and declaration of interests (23%)

Looking specifically at Carmarthenshire County Council a total of 47 maladministration complaints were concluded during the year of which 40 were either out of jurisdiction, premature or closed after initial consideration. A further 5 were resolved voluntarily, one upheld and one not upheld.

The Ombudsman also concluded 1 code complaint against a County Councillor, which was closed after initial consideration

The Ombudsman also dealt with code complaints against Town and Community Councillors from Cwmamman Town Council (1), Kidwelly Town Council (1), Llanelli Rural Council (6), Llanelli Town Council (1) and Llangennech Community Council (2). None of these cases involved any disciplinary action being taken against the Councillors concerned

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 Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
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

*(Please specify the outcomes of consultations undertaken where they arise against the following headings)*

**1. Scrutiny Committee**

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*

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information**

**List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

**THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW**

<b>Title of Document</b>	<b>File Ref No.</b>	<b>Locations that the papers are available for public inspection</b>
<b>Legal file</b>	<b>DPSC-154</b>	<b>Legal Services, County Hall</b>