

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
26/10/2022

**FINAL HEARING IN RESPECT OF REPORT ISSUED BY THE
PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES REGARDING
TOWN COUNCILLOR LOUISE WRIDE**

Recommendations / key decisions required:

To determine whether Councillor Wride has breached the Members Code of Conduct for Llandovery Town Council.

Reasons:

The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales has referred the case to the committee for determination.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted: Not Applicable

Cabinet Decision Required: Not Applicable

Council Decision Required: Not Applicable

Cabinet Member Portfolio Member: Not Applicable

Directorate:

Name of Head of Service:

Linda Rees-Jones

Report Author:

Robert Edgecombe

Designations:

Head of Administration
and Law

Legal Services Manager

Tel / Email address:

01267 224018

rjedgeco@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
STANDARDS COMMITTEE
26/10/2022**

**FINAL HEARING IN RESPECT OF REPORT ISSUED BY THE
PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES REGARDING
TOWN COUNCILLOR LOUISE WRIDE**

On the 25th July 2022 the Council's Monitoring Officer received a report from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales setting out the results of their investigation into allegations that Councillor Wride had breached the members code of conduct. A copy of the Ombudsman's report is attached.

In accordance with the procedures adopted by the Committee, it conducted an initial consideration of the report on the 25th August 2022 and concluded that the report did disclose evidence to suggest that Councillor Wride had breached the Members Code of Conduct. The case then proceeded to the next stage and Councillor Wride was invited to make representations regarding the further progress of the case.

The Committee now needs to consider the case in full and determine whether Councillor Wride's conduct breached the code adopted by Llandovery Town Council as suggested in the attached report.

The Committee needs to determine whether Councillor Wride's conduct brought her office as a town councillor and/or her council into disrepute. The conduct in question being Councillor Wride's conviction for a criminal offence, as set out in the Ombudsman's report.

If the Committee does determine that Councillor Wride's conduct breached the code, it will then need to consider what sanction (if any) that it wishes to impose. The maximum sanction that it can impose is suspension from office for up to 6 months. Sanctions guidance issued by the Adjudication Panel for Wales can be utilised to assist the committee should it reach this stage.

Should the Committee conclude that Councillor Wride has breached the code and impose a sanction then Councillor Wride will have a right of appeal to the Adjudication Panel for Wales.

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: *LRJones*

Administration and Law

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

Legal Implications

Councillor Wride will have a right of appeal to the Adjudication Panel for Wales if dissatisfied with the decision of the committee.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: *LRJones*

Head of Administration and Law

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| 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 |

**CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO
HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED**

NO

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

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Legal Services file	DPSC-199	County Hall, Carmarthen