



STANDARDS REPORT

Date Written	9 th November 2017
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Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	17 th November 2017

To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The Committee agreed at its meeting on 27th November 2015 that part of its regular work programme would include a consideration of the annual report of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales
- 1.2 Members have had sight of the report and will be aware that it provides a detailed summary of the work of the Ombudsman over the past year. It also provides details of the data in respect of referrals made to that service from residents of Merthyr Tydfil. The report sets out the number of matters that were resolved in that year and members can compare the levels with those in neighbouring authorities.
- 1.3 Members will note that there are currently a number of matters referred to the Ombudsman for consideration which are not covered by this annual report.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that:

- 2.1 The Committee notes and debates the information contained within the report.

3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At the Standards Committee on the 27th November 2015 it was recognised that provision needs to be made for there to be consideration of data in respect of referrals made to the Ombudsman annually in respect of this Council with a view to

identifying any trends or issues that need to be addressed. Furthermore it is helpful to gain a perspective on the relative level of referral in comparison with neighbouring authorities.

- 3.2 Members can see that the report is very detailed and provides a very helpful overview of the work of the Ombudsman and his staff over the year. It provides details of issues relating to this authority specifically in the appendices and members will see that one complaint in respect of a Merthyr Tydfil Councillor was brought to a conclusion in that year. It also comments that there was a decrease in code of conduct complaints during the year which is unusual as complaints normally rise during an election year.
- 3.3 Members will be aware because of some press interest that there have been some referrals in respect of local Councillors in the period leading up to and since the elections of May and June 2017. Those matters will be reported in a subsequent report. If any matter is referred back to this Committee to be determined under the terms of the local resolution procedure then additional meetings of the committee will be convened as required.

4.0 DECISION REQUIRED

- 4.1. Committee is asked to consider the information provided and identify whether there are any issues of concern that need to be highlighted for further action and to consider whether a report should be provided to Cabinet and council

CARYS KENNEDY
MONITORING OFFICER

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
Report of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales		Legal Department
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?		No