

CYNGOR SIR YNYS MON / ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE:	Standards Committee
DATE:	13 December 2023
REPORT TITLE:	Local Resolution Protocol in the Town and Community Councils
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:	To publish the Standards Committee's final version of its Local Resolution Protocol for use by the Town and Community Councils
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1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 A draft Local Resolution Protocol (LRP) for use by the Town and Community Councils (TCC) was considered by the Standards Committee at its June 2023 meeting. Whilst the LRP was agreed in principle, the Committee wanted further work to be done before the final version LRP was published.

1.2 The LRP was further discussed at an informal meeting of the Standards Committee in July 2023, where amendments were agreed.

1.3 The final version LRP was sent to the Town and Community Councils, under cover of the Standards Committee's Newsletter for TCCs, in October 2023. A copy of the LRP is included in **Enclosure 1**.

2. THE PROTOCOL

2.1 The TCC LRP in **Enclosure 1** details that the Standards Committee expects the One Voice Wales LRP to be used by TCC members and Clerks, should there be behavioural or conduct concerns. However, in limited circumstances, the Standards Committee will become involved, via the Standards Committee's Chair and only in circumstances where the Standards Committee's Chair considers it would be beneficial, that resources/capacity permit and that the matter(s) of concern are within the terms of reference of the Standards Committee, specifically that they relate to matters of conduct. A request must come from the Chair or a Clerk of the TCC or following a TCC resolution.

2.2 The LRP has already been shared with the TCCs as part of the Standards Committee Newsletter. The Standards Committee will need to consider how it intends to remind TCCs of this LRP in the future.

2.3 No requests have been made under the TCC LRP to date.

2.4 Arrangements are being made for the five independent members and the two TCC representatives on the Standards Committee to undertake Mediation training so as to assist them in relation to all their LRP duties (should it relate to the County Council elected members or the TCC members). This training is scheduled for January 2024 and members have been informed of the arrangements.

3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 For the Standards Committee to note the report.

3.2 For the five independent members and the two TCC representatives on the Standards Committee to attend the Mediation training in January 2024.

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Local Resolution Protocol
for the Town and
Community Councils

1. The Standards Committee encourages all Town and Community Councils to adopt a Local Resolution Protocol [LRP] and suggests that Councils utilise the LRP published by One Voice Wales. A copy is available here.
2. In circumstances where the One Voice Wales LRP is not suitable or is unworkable, e.g. due to the matter involving the Town or Community Council Chair / Vice-Chair, a request for informal assistance can be made to the Chair of the Standards Committee.
A request must be made by the:
 - 2.1 Chair of the Town or Community Council;
 - 2.2 Clerk of the Town or Community Council; or
 - 2.3 Town or Community Council itself following a resolution.
3. The Standards Committee's Chair will consider each matter based upon its own facts and will only become involved in circumstances where the Chair considers that:
 - 3.1 The Standards Committee's involvement could be beneficial;
 - 3.2 The Standards Committee has the resources and /or the capacity to assist; and
 - 3.3 The matter of concern falls within the remit of the Standards Committee's terms of reference, and in particular relates to issues of conduct / behaviour. The Standards Committee will not become involved in governance issues within Town and Community Council.

The Chair has the absolute discretion to decide if the Standards Committee will become involved in the matter or not.

The decision of the Standards Committee's Chair is final.

4. Any process followed by the Standards Committee's Chair will be voluntary for all parties. It will be an informal process with limited paperwork.

Agreed by the Standards Committee – June 2023