

MEETING	STANDARD COMMITTEE
DATE	9, FEBRUARY, 2010
SUBJECT	LOCAL PROTOCOL
PURPOSE	REQUEST THE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER DEVELOPING A LOCAL BEHAVIOUR PROTOCOL FOR GWYNEDD MEMBERS.
AUTHOR:	DILYS PHILLIPS, MONITORING OFFICER.

1. The committee will recall that it drew up a Member-Officer Relations Protocol which has by now been adopted by the full Council. Attached to the Protocol was a local procedure for resolving disputes when it was considered that the offence was not serious enough to be brought to the attention of the Ombudsman under the Code of Conduct.
2. It has become known that some authorities also use the same local procedure to resolve complaints of misconduct by a member against a member.
3. The idea has been discussed in outline with the Political Group Leaders and it is believed there is support to develop some kind of "Gwynedd standard" which would set out clearly the behaviour which is expected from Gwynedd Council members, which possibly, would go further than what the Ombudsman would be willing to investigate under the Code of Conduct. Complaints that the standard has been breached would go to the Standards Committee.
4. It is believed that there are some recent incidents showing misunderstanding amongst members regarding the powers of the Standards Committee, and establishing a standard and local arrangement would be helpful to resolve this.

RECOMMENDATION.

5. The Committee is requested to discuss and support the principle of developing a local arrangement.