

**Cyngor Cymuned Llangamarch  
Archeb Sefydlog a Rheoliadau Ariannol  
2024**



**Llangammarch Community Council  
Standing Orders & Financial Regulations  
November 2024**

## General Introduction

<b>1. Llangammarch Community Council .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2. The Office of Councillor.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3. Meeting Management</b>	
1. RULES OF DEBATE AT MEETINGS .....	7
2. DISORDERLY CONDUCT AT MEETINGS .....	9
3. MEETINGS GENERALLY.....	9
4. COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES .....	13
5. ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETINGS.....	14
6. EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS , COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES.....	16
7. PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS .....	17
8. VOTING ON APPOINTMENTS.....	17
9. MOTIONS FOR A MEETING THAT REQUIRE WRITTEN NOTICE TO BE GIVEN TO THE PROPER OFFICER .....	17
10. MOTIONS AT A MEETING THAT DO NOT REQUIRE WRITTEN NOTICE .....	18
11. MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION.....	19
12. DRAFT MINUTES.....	20
13. CODE OF CONDUCT AND DISPENSATIONS.....	21
14. CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS .....	21
15. PROPER OFFICER .....	21
16. RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER .....	23
17. ACCOUNTS AND ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS.....	24
18. FINANCIAL CONTROLS AND PROCUREMENT .....	25
19. HANDLING STAFF MATTERS .....	26
20. RESPONSIBILITIES TO PROVIDE INFORMATION.....	27
21. RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION .....	27
22. RELATIONS WITH THE PRESS/MEDIA .....	28
23. EXECUTION AND SEALING OF LEGAL DEEDS .....	28
24. COMMUNICATING WITH COUNTY COUNCIL COUNCILLORS.....	28
25. RESTRICTIONS ON COUNCILLOR ACTIVITIES .....	29
26. STANDING ORDERS GENERALLY.....	29
<b>4. Financial Regulations.....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Addenda:</b>	
<b>5. OVW Resolution Protocol.....</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>6. Code of Conduct, Quick Reference Guide from the Public Services Ombudsman .....</b>	<b>55</b>

## **INTRODUCTION**

**The Standing Orders of Llangammarch Community Council** are designed to assist in the proper conduct of Council business. They set out the policies and procedures -- both those laid down in statute and those adopted by resolution of the Council -- which govern the way in which the Council operates. The master document is held by the Clerk to the Council and may be inspected by any person by prior appointment with the Clerk.

## **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

The Community Council exists to serve the communities of Llangammarch Wells, Cefn Gorwydd, Tirabad and part of Garth, in the county of Powys.

## **1. THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR**

### **1.1 Qualification**

A person is qualified to be elected as a Community Councillor, and to hold such office, if he/she is a British subject, or a citizen of the Republic of Ireland, or a citizen of the European Union, and on the relevant day (defined below) has reached 18 years of age **AND**

- (a) on that day, he/she is, and thereafter continues to be, a local government elector for the community area; **OR**
- (b) he/she has, during the whole of the twelve months preceding that day, occupied - as owner or tenant - any land or other premises in that area; **OR**
- (c) his/her principal or only place of work during that twelve-month period has been in the area; **OR**
- (d) he/she has during the whole of that twelve-month period resided in the area; **OR**
- (e) he/she has during the whole of the twelve-month period preceding the relevant date resided within three miles of the community.

**1.2** The "relevant day" means (except in the case of an election not preceded by the nomination of candidates) the day on which the person is nominated as a candidate and, if there is a poll, the day of election. In the excepted case, the term means the day of election.

**1.3** In order to qualify on the basis of residence, it is necessary for the person at least to have a sleeping apartment within the area or within three miles thereof. It is permissible for a person (for example, a student) to be a resident in more than one place at a time.

**1.4** A Member qualified under (b), (c), (d) or (e) above continues to be qualified during the term of his/her office even though he/she ceases to be an elector or his/her situation is otherwise changed. However, a Councillor qualified on the day of nomination and election only by virtue of his/her being a local government elector must continue to be a local government elector for the community council area during the whole period of his/her office. Registration on the electoral roll is essential for qualification as a local government elector.

### **1.5 Disqualification**

A person is disqualified from being a Community Councillor if he/she:

- (a) holds any paid office or employment under the council or any joint committee on which the council is represented; **OR**
- (b) has been adjudged bankrupt or has made a composition or arrangement with his/her creditors (but see below); **OR**
- (c) has within five years before the day of election, or since his/her election, been convicted in the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man, of any offence and has been sentenced to imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for not less than three months without the option of a fine; **OR**
- (d) is otherwise disqualified under Part III of the Representation of the People Act 1983 for corrupt or illegal practices.

**1.6** The disqualification for bankruptcy ceases in the following circumstances:

- (a) if the bankruptcy is annulled on the grounds that either the person ought not to have been adjudged bankrupt or that his/her debts have been fully discharged;
- (b) if the person is discharged with a certificate that the bankruptcy was caused by a misfortune without any misconduct on his/her part;
- (c) if the person is discharged without such a certificate.

In (a) and (b) above, the disqualification ceases on the date of the annulment and discharge respectively. In (c), it ceases on the expiry of five years from the date of discharge. The disqualification for composition or arrangements with creditors ceases upon payment of the debts in full or on the expiry of five years from the date on which the terms of the composition or arrangement are fulfilled.

### **1.7 Elections**

Elections will be held every five years (or as otherwise determined) and will normally take place on the first Thursday in May.

The ordinary election of Community Councillors will be conducted by means of nomination of candidates by one elector of the community and, if necessary, a poll.

### **1.8 Acceptance of Office**

No Councillor may act until he/she has executed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office (see Annex) in the presence of a Member or the Proper Officer of the Council, and has delivered it to the Council. Councillors must make the declaration at or before the first meeting after election unless the Council at that meeting permits the declaration to be made at or before a later meeting. The Chairperson must make the declaration at the meeting at which he/she is elected.

If the declaration is not executed at the proper time, a casual vacancy automatically arises (see 1.12 below).

### **1.9 Code of Conduct**

Each Councillor, whether elected or co-opted, must undertake in writing to abide by the Council's Code of Conduct. This undertaking is incorporated in the declaration, so admission to office is not possible without signing it. With effect from 6 May 2008, Llangammarch Community Council adopted the provisions of the Code of Conduct introduced by the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) (Wales) Order 2008. The Code sets out the standards of behaviour expected of Councillors and introduces a new requirement not to act or behave in a manner which could bring the office or authority into disrepute, together with an obligation to report suspected breaches of the Code to the Monitoring Officer and the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

### **1.10 Disclosure of Interests**

The Code also sets out the system under which Councillors must declare personal or prejudicial interests in any business of the Council. Guidance on the rules has been provided by Powys County Council, together with forms for recording declarations. The Clerk to the Council will maintain a Register of Members' Interests, which will be available for public inspection at any reasonable time by prior appointment.

### **1.11 Period of Office**

Community Councillors are elected for a term of **five** years, retiring together on the fourth day after the date of the normal elections held every five years. The newly-elected Councillors take office on that fourth day.

The Chairperson will serve for the period from one annual meeting to the next. If it becomes necessary to elect a Chairperson between annual meetings, the elected person will serve until the next annual meeting.

## **1.12 Casual Vacancy**

A casual vacancy may result from failure to make a declaration of acceptance of office, ceasing to be qualified (1.1), disqualification (1.5), resignation or death or through failure to attend a meeting for a period of six months (unless the failure is for an approved reason).

Once a Councillor ceases to be qualified or becomes disqualified or ceases to be a Member by failing to attend meetings, the Council must immediately declare the office vacant. The declaration of vacancy will be made, by resolution, at the first available meeting of the Council, after which Powys County Council should be informed and the casual vacancy will be advertised by means of a public notice provided by Powys County Council.

If within fourteen days of the public advertisement a poll is requested by no fewer than ten electors of the community, a by-election must be held in order to fill the vacancy. Otherwise, as soon as possible after the expiry of fourteen days from the date of the public advertisement, the vacancy will be filled by the Council itself by the co-option of a suitable person qualified to serve as a Councillor.

The person who fills the casual vacancy, whether by poll or co-option, will retire from office at the time when the Councillor he/she has replaced would have retired in the normal course of events.

The Council may co-opt any person qualified to serve as a Councillor. If there is more than one candidate, the person co-opted must have secured an absolute majority of Councillors' votes. If there are more than two candidates, a series of votes will be held with the person securing the lowest number of votes being eliminated each time. Councillors may vote by a show of hands or by ballot. The Chairperson may vote and may exercise a casting vote. Members of the public, including candidates, should not be excluded from the Council's debate and vote.

Once a poll has been requested in respect of a casual vacancy, it is no longer permissible to fill the vacancy by co-option, even if the initial poll does not result in any person being nominated for election.

If the casual vacancy arises within six months of the date on which the Councillor would normally have retired, no poll can be demanded and the vacancy need not be filled until the next ordinary election.

1. **RULES OF DEBATE AT MEETINGS**

- a Motions on the agenda shall be considered in the order that they appear unless the order is changed at the discretion of the chair of the meeting.
- b A motion (including an amendment) shall not be progressed unless it has been moved and seconded.
- c A motion on the agenda that is not moved by its proposer may be treated by the chair of the meeting as withdrawn.
- d If a motion (including an amendment) has been seconded, it may be withdrawn by the proposer only with the consent of the seconder and the meeting.
- e An amendment is a proposal to remove or add words to a motion. It shall not negate the motion.
- f If an amendment to the original motion is carried, the original motion (as amended) becomes the substantive motion upon which further amendment(s) may be moved.
- g An amendment shall not be considered unless early verbal notice of it is given at the meeting and, if requested by the chair of the meeting, is expressed in writing to the chair.
- h A councillor may move an amendment to their own motion if agreed by the meeting. If a motion has already been seconded, the amendment shall be with the consent of the seconder and the meeting.
- i If there is more than one amendment to an original or substantive motion, the amendments shall be moved in the order directed by the chair of the meeting.
- j Subject to standing order 1(k), only one amendment shall be moved and debated at a time, the order of which shall be directed by the chair of the meeting.
- k One or more amendments may be discussed together if the chair of the meeting considers this expedient but each amendment shall be voted upon separately.
- l A councillor may not move more than one amendment to an original or substantive motion.
- m The mover of an amendment has no right of reply at the end of debate on it.
- n Where a series of amendments to an original motion are carried, the mover of

the original motion shall have a right of reply either at the end of debate on the first amendment or at the very end of debate on the final substantive motion immediately before it is put to the vote.

- o Unless permitted by the chair of the meeting, a councillor may speak once in the debate on a motion except:
  - i. to speak on an amendment moved by another councillor;
  - ii. to move or speak on another amendment if the motion has been amended since they last spoke;
  - iii. to make a point of order;
  - iv. to give a personal explanation; or
  - v. to exercise a right of reply.
- p During the debate on a motion, a councillor may interrupt only on a point of order or a personal explanation and the councillor who was interrupted shall stop speaking. A councillor raising a point of order shall identify the standing order which they consider has been breached or specify the other irregularity in the proceedings of the meeting they are concerned by.
- q A point of order shall be decided by the chair of the meeting and their decision shall be final.
- r When a motion is under debate, no other motion shall be moved except:
  - i. to amend the motion;
  - ii. to proceed to the next business;
  - iii. to adjourn the debate;
  - iv. to put the motion to a vote;
  - v. to ask a person to be no longer heard or to leave the meeting;
  - vi. to refer a motion to a committee or sub-committee for consideration;
  - vii. to exclude the public and press;
  - viii. to adjourn the meeting; or
  - ix. to suspend particular standing order(s) excepting those which reflect mandatory statutory or legal requirements.



- s Before an original or substantive motion is put to the vote, the chair of the meeting shall be satisfied that the motion has been sufficiently debated and that the mover of the motion under debate has exercised or waived their right of reply.
- t Excluding motions moved under standing order 1(r), the contributions or speeches by a councillor shall relate only to the motion under discussion and shall not exceed 5 minutes without the consent of the chair of the meeting.

## 2. **DISORDERLY CONDUCT AT MEETINGS**

- a No person shall obstruct the transaction of business at a meeting or behave offensively or improperly. If this standing order is ignored, the chair of the meeting shall request such person(s) to moderate or improve their conduct.
- b If person(s) disregard the request of the chair of the meeting to moderate or improve their conduct, any councillor or the chair of the meeting may move that the person be no longer heard or be excluded from the meeting. The motion, if seconded, shall be put to the vote without discussion.
- c If a resolution made under standing order 2(b) is ignored, the chair of the meeting may take further reasonable steps to restore order or to progress the meeting. This may include temporarily suspending or closing the meeting.

## 3. **MEETINGS GENERALLY**

Full Council meetings	●
Committee meetings	●
Sub-committee meetings	●

- a Notices of meetings
  - i. The notice (including how the meeting may be accessed virtually, if applicable) must be published electronically and in a conspicuous place in the community at least three clear days before the meeting, or if the meeting is convened at shorter notice, at the time it is convened.
  - ii. If a member wants to receive the summons in writing rather than electronically to the address allocated to them or notified as their address to the clerk, they must give notice in writing to the clerk and specify the postal address to which the summons should be sent.

- iii. The notice must provide details about how to access the meeting remotely, and the time and place of the meeting. The place may be omitted if the meeting is held by remote means only.
- iv. In exceptional circumstances, a meeting of a committee or sub-committee of the council may be called at shorter notice. In which case, notices should be published with at least 24 hours' notice.

These notice requirements also apply where a formal meeting is taking place which is not open to the public.

b Multi-location meetings

- i. All community councils must make and publish arrangements for its meetings to enable people who are not in the same place to meet. Under the arrangements, councils will need to take reasonable steps to allow meetings to be held from multiple locations. If the arrangements are revised or replaced the new arrangements must also be published.
- ii. The minimum requirement is that members are able to hear and be heard by others.

Meetings Generally – Other.

- a **The minimum three clear days for notice of a meeting does not include the day on which the notice was issued, the day of the meeting, a Sunday, a day of the Christmas break, a day of the Easter break or of a bank holiday or a day appointed for public thanksgiving or mourning.**
- b **The minimum three clear days' public notice for a meeting does not include the day on which the notice was issued or the day of the meeting unless the meeting is convened at shorter notice.**
- c **Meetings shall be open to the public unless their presence is prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons. The public and the press's exclusion from part or all of a meeting shall be by a resolution which shall give reasons for the public and the press to be excluded.**
- d The person presiding over the meeting must give members of the public in attendance a reasonable opportunity to make representations about any business to be discussed at the meeting, unless doing so is likely to prejudice the effective conduct of the meeting. This does not mean that members of

- the public can take part in debate, but they must be given a reasonable opportunity to make representations about business to be discussed.
- e The period of time designated for public participation at a meeting in accordance with standing order 3(d) shall not exceed 5 minutes unless directed otherwise by the chair of the meeting.
  - f Subject to standing order 3(e), a member of the public shall not speak for more than 5 minutes.
  - g In accordance with standing order 3(d), a question shall not require a response at the meeting nor start a debate on the question. The chair of the meeting may direct that a written or oral response be given.
  - h [A person shall stand when requesting to speak other than in the case of a person attending from another location and when speaking (except when a person has a disability or is likely to suffer discomfort)] OR [A person shall raise their hand when requesting to speak and stand when speaking (except when a person has a disability or is likely to suffer discomfort)]. The chair of the meeting may at any time permit a person to be seated when speaking.
  - i A person who speaks at a meeting shall direct their comments to the chair of the meeting.
  - j Only one person is permitted to speak at a time. If more than one person wants to speak, the chair of the meeting shall direct the order of speaking.
  - k **Photographing, recording, broadcasting or transmitting the proceedings of a meeting by any means is not permitted without the Council's consent.**
  - l **The press shall be provided with reasonable facilities for the taking of their report of all or part of a meeting at which they are entitled to be present.**
  - m **Subject to standing orders which indicate otherwise, anything authorised or required to be done by, to or before the Chair of the Council may in their absence be done by, to or before the Vice-Chair of the Council (if there is one).**
  - n **The Chair of the Council, if present, shall preside at a meeting. If the Chair is absent from a meeting, the Vice-Chair of the Council (if there is one), if present, shall preside. If both the Chair and the Vice-Chair are absent from a meeting, a councillor as chosen by the councillors present at the meeting shall preside at the meeting.**

- o **Subject to a meeting being quorate, all questions at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of the councillors and non-councillors with voting rights present and voting. The quorum for Llangammarch Community Council is three councillors.**
- p **The chair of a meeting may give an original vote on any matter put to the vote, and in the case of an equality of votes may exercise their casting vote whether or not they gave an original vote.**

*See standing orders 5(h) and (i) for the different rules that apply in the election of the Chair of the Council at the annual meeting of the Council.*

- q **Unless standing orders provide otherwise, voting on a question shall be by a show of hands. At the request of a councillor, the voting on any question shall be recorded so as to show whether each councillor present and voting gave their vote for or against that question.** Such a request shall be made before moving on to the next item of business on the agenda.
- r The minutes of a meeting shall include an accurate record of the following:
  - i. the time and place of the meeting;
  - ii. the names of councillors who are present and the names of councillors who are absent;
  - iii. interests that have been declared by councillors and non-councillors with voting rights;
  - iv. the grant of dispensations (if any) to councillors and non-councillors with voting rights;
  - v. whether a councillor or non-councillor with voting rights left the meeting when matters that they held interests in were being considered;
  - vi. if there was a public participation session; and
  - vii. the resolutions made.
- s **A councillor or a non-councillor with voting rights who has a personal or prejudicial interest in a matter being considered at a meeting which limits or restricts their right to participate in a discussion or vote on that matter is subject to obligations in the code of conduct adopted by the Council.**
- t **No business may be transacted at a meeting unless at least one-third of the whole number of members of the Council are present and in no case shall**

**the quorum of a meeting be less than three.**

*See standing order 4(d)(viii) for the quorum of a committee or sub-committee meeting.*

- u **If a meeting is or becomes inquorate no business shall be transacted** and
- the meeting shall be closed. The business on the agenda for the meeting shall
- be adjourned to another meeting.
  
- v A meeting shall not exceed a period of 2 hours.

#### 4. **COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES**

- a **Unless the Council determines otherwise, a committee may appoint a sub-committee whose terms of reference and members shall be determined by the committee.**
  
- b **The members of a committee may include non-councillors unless it is a committee which regulates and controls the finances of the Council.**
  
- c **Unless the Council determines otherwise, all the members of an advisory committee and a sub-committee of the advisory committee may be non-councillors.**
  
- d The Council may appoint standing committees or other committees as may be necessary, and:
  - i. shall determine their terms of reference;
  - ii. shall determine the number and time of the ordinary meetings of a standing committee up until the date of the next annual meeting of the Council;
  - iii. shall permit a committee, other than in respect of the ordinary meetings of a committee, to determine the number and time of its meetings;
  - iv. shall, subject to standing orders 4(b) and (c), appoint and determine the terms of office of members of such a committee;
  - v. may, subject to standing orders 4(b) and (c), appoint and determine the terms of office of the substitute members to a committee whose role is to replace the ordinary members at a meeting of a committee if the ordinary members of the committee confirm to the Proper Officer 2 days before the meeting that they are unable to attend;

- vi. shall, after it has appointed the members of a standing committee, appoint the chair of the standing committee;
- vii. shall permit a committee other than a standing committee, to appoint its own chair at the first meeting of the committee;
- viii. shall determine the place, notice requirements and quorum for a meeting of a committee and a sub-committee which, in both cases, shall be no less than three;
- ix. shall determine if the public may participate at a meeting of a committee;
- x. shall determine if the public and press are permitted to attend the meetings of a sub-committee and also the advance public notice requirements, if any, required for the meetings of a sub-committee;
- xi. shall determine if the public may participate at a meeting of a sub-committee that they are permitted to attend; and
- xii. may dissolve a committee or a sub-committee.

## 5. **ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETINGS**

- a **In an election year, the annual meeting of the Council shall be held on or within 14 days following the day on which the councillors elected take office.**
- b **In a year which is not an election year, the annual meeting of the Council shall be held on such day in May as the Council decides.**
- c **If no other time is fixed, the annual meeting of the Council shall take place at 7.00pm.**
- d **In addition to the annual meeting of the Council, any number of other ordinary meetings may be held in each year on such dates and times as the Council decides.**
- e **The first business conducted at the annual meeting of the Council shall be the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair (if there is one) of the Council.**
- f **The Chair of the Council, unless they have resigned or become disqualified, shall continue in office and preside at the annual meeting until their successor is elected at the next annual meeting of the Council.**
- g **The Vice-Chair of the Council if there is one, unless they resign or become disqualified, shall hold office until immediately after the election of the Chair**

of the Council at the next annual meeting of the Council.

- h **In an election year, if the current Chair of the Council has not been re-elected as a member of the Council, they shall preside at the annual meeting until a successor Chair of the Council has been elected. The current Chair of the Council shall not have an original vote in respect of the election of the new Chair of the Council but shall give a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.**
- i **In an election year, if the current Chair of the Council has been re-elected as a member of the Council, they shall preside at the annual meeting until a new Chair of the Council has been elected. They may exercise an original vote in respect of the election of the new Chair of the Council and shall give a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.**
- j Following the election of the Chair of the Council and Vice-Chair (if there is one) of the Council at the annual meeting, the business shall include:
  - i. **In an election year, delivery by the Chair of the Council and councillors of their acceptance of office forms unless the Council resolves for this to be done at a later date. In a year which is not an election year, delivery by the Chair of the Council of their acceptance of office form unless the Council resolves for this to be done at a later date;**
  - ii. Confirmation of the accuracy of the minutes of the last meeting of the Council;
  - iii. Receipt of the minutes of the last meeting of a committee;
  - iv. Consideration of the recommendations made by a committee;
  - v. Review of delegation arrangements to committees, sub-committees, staff and other local authorities;
  - vi. Review of the terms of reference for committees;
  - vii. Appointment of members to existing committees;
  - viii. Appointment of any new committees in accordance with standing order 4;
  - ix. Review and adoption of appropriate standing orders and financial regulations;
  - x. Review of the eligibility criteria for the use of the general power of competence

- xi. Review and adoption of the council's annual report
- xii. Review and adoption of the council's training plan
- xiii. Review of arrangements (including legal agreements) with other local authorities, not-for-profit bodies and businesses;
- xiv. Review of representation on or work with external bodies and arrangements for reporting back;
- xv. Review of inventory of land and other assets including buildings and office equipment;
- xvi. Confirmation of arrangements for insurance cover in respect of all insurable risks;
- xvii. Review of the Council's and/or staff subscriptions to other bodies;
- xviii. Review of the Council's complaints procedure;
- xix. Review of the Council's policies, procedures and practices in respect of its obligations under freedom of information and data protection legislation (*see also standing orders 11, 20 and 21*);
- xx. Review of the Council's policy for dealing with the press/media;
- xxi. Review of the Council's employment policies and procedures;
- xxii. Review of the Council's expenditure incurred under s.137 of the Local Government Act 1972
- xxiii. Determining the time and place of ordinary meetings of the Council up to and including the next annual meeting of the Council.

**6. EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL, COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES**

- a **The Chair of the Council may convene an extraordinary meeting of the Council at any time.**
- b **If the Chair of the Council does not call an extraordinary meeting of the Council within seven days of having been requested in writing to do so by two councillors, any two councillors may convene an extraordinary meeting of the Council. The public notice giving the time, place and agenda for such a meeting shall be signed by the two councillors.**



- c The chair of a committee or a sub-committee may convene an extraordinary meeting of the committee or the sub-committee at any time.
- d If the chair of a committee or a sub-committee does not call an extraordinary meeting within 3 days of having been requested to do so by 2) members of the committee or the sub-committee, any 2 members of the committee or the sub-committee may convene an extraordinary meeting of the committee or the sub-committee.

**7. PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS**

- a A resolution shall not be reversed within six months except either by a special motion, which requires written notice by at least 2 councillors to be given to the Proper Officer in accordance with standing order 9, or by a motion moved in pursuance of the recommendation of a committee or a sub-committee.
- b When a motion moved pursuant to standing order 7(a) has been disposed of, no similar motion may be moved for a further six months.

**8. VOTING ON APPOINTMENTS**

- a Where more than two persons have been nominated for a position to be filled by the Council and none of those persons has received an absolute majority of votes in their favour, the name of the person having the least number of votes shall be struck off the list and a fresh vote taken. This process shall continue until a majority of votes is given in favour of one person. A tie in votes may be settled by the casting vote exercisable by the chair of the meeting.

**9. MOTIONS FOR A MEETING THAT REQUIRES WRITTEN NOTICE TO BE GIVEN TO THE PROPER OFFICER**

- a A motion shall relate to the responsibilities of the meeting for which it is tabled and in any event shall relate to the performance of the Council's statutory functions, powers and obligations or an issue which specifically affects the Council's area or its residents.
- b No motion may be moved at a meeting unless it is on the agenda and the mover has given written notice of its wording to the Proper Officer at least 3 clear days before the meeting. Clear days do not include the day

of the notice or the day of the meeting.

- c The Proper Officer may, before including a motion on the agenda, received in accordance with standing order 9(b), correct obvious grammatical or typographical errors in the wording of the motion.
- d If the Proper Officer considers the wording of a motion received in accordance with standing order 9(b) is not clear in meaning, the motion shall be rejected until the mover of the motion re-submits it, so that it can be understood, in writing, to the Proper Officer at least 4 clear days before the meeting.
- e If the wording or subject of a proposed motion is considered improper, the Proper Officer shall consult with the chair of the forthcoming meeting or, as the case may be, the councillors who have convened the meeting, to consider whether the motion shall be included in the agenda or rejected.
- f The decision of the Proper Officer as to whether or not to include the motion on the agenda shall be final.
- g Motions received shall be recorded and numbered in the order that they are received.
- h Motions rejected shall be recorded with an explanation by the Proper Officer of the reason for rejection.

#### 10. **MOTIONS AT A MEETING THAT DO NOT REQUIRE WRITTEN NOTICE**

- a The following motions may be moved at a meeting without written notice to the Proper Officer:
  - i. to correct an inaccuracy in the draft minutes of a meeting;
  - ii. to move to a vote;
  - iii. to defer consideration of a motion;
  - iv. to refer a motion to a particular committee or sub-committee;
  - v. to appoint a person to preside at a meeting;
  - vi. to change the order of business on the agenda;
  - vii. to proceed to the next business on the agenda;

- viii. to require a written report;
- ix. to appoint a committee or sub-committee and their members;
- x. to extend the time limits for speaking;
- xi. to exclude the press and public from a meeting in respect of confidential or other information which is prejudicial to the public interest;
- xii. to not hear further from a councillor or a member of the public;
- xiii. to exclude a councillor or member of the public for disorderly conduct;
- xiv. to temporarily suspend the meeting;
- xv. to suspend a particular standing order (unless it reflects mandatory statutory or legal requirements);
- xvi. to adjourn the meeting; or
- xvii. to close the meeting.

## 11. MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION

*See also standing order 20.*

- a **The Council shall have in place and keep under review, technical and organisational measures to keep secure information (including personal data) which it holds in paper and electronic form. Such arrangements shall include deciding who has access to personal data and encryption of personal data. Such date will include recordings of meetings held by the Council.**
- b **The Council shall have in place, and keep under review, policies for the retention and safe destruction of all information (including personal data) which it holds in paper, recorded and electronic form. The Council's retention policy shall confirm the period for which information (including personal data) shall be retained or if this is not possible the criteria used to determine that period (e.g., the Limitation Act 1980).**
- c **The agenda, papers that support the agenda and the minutes of a meeting shall not disclose or otherwise undermine confidential information or personal data without legal justification.**
- d **Councillors, staff, the Council's contractors and agents shall not disclose confidential information or personal data without legal justification.**

12. **DRAFT MINUTES**

- a If the draft minutes of a preceding meeting have been served on councillors with the agenda to attend the meeting at which they are due to be approved for accuracy, they shall be taken as read.
- b There shall be no discussion about the draft minutes of a preceding meeting except in relation to their accuracy. A motion to correct an inaccuracy in the draft minutes shall be moved in accordance with standing order 10(a)(i).
- c The accuracy of draft minutes, including any amendment(s) made to them, shall be confirmed by resolution and shall be signed by the chair of the meeting and stand as an accurate record of the meeting to which the minutes relate.
- d If the chair of the meeting does not consider the minutes to be an accurate record of the meeting to which they relate, they shall sign the minutes and include a paragraph in the following terms or to the same effect:

“The chair of this meeting does not believe that the minutes of the meeting of the ( ) held on [date] in respect of ( ) were a correct record but their view was not upheld by the meeting and the minutes are confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.”

- e Subject to standing order 20(a) and following a resolution which confirms the accuracy of the minutes of a meeting, the draft minutes or recordings of the meeting for which approved minutes exist shall be destroyed.
- f) **no later than seven working days of a council meeting, the council must publish electronically a note setting out:**

- **The names of the members who attended the meeting, and any apologies for absence;**
- **Any declarations of interest; and**
- **Any decisions taken at the meeting, including the outcomes of any votes.**

**The requirements regarding the note to be published after a council meeting do not apply for private business or where disclosure would be detrimental to acting on those decisions.**

13. **CODE OF CONDUCT AND DISPENSATIONS**

*See also standing order 3(s).*

- a **Councillors and non-councillors with voting rights shall observe the code of conduct adopted by the Council.**
- b All councillors and non-councillors with voting rights shall undertake training in the code of conduct within six months of the delivery of their acceptance of office form.
- c **Dispensation requests shall be in writing and submitted to the standards committee of the Powys County Council** as soon as possible before the meeting that the dispensation is required for.

14. **CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS**

- a Upon notification by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales that it is dealing with a complaint that a councillor or non-councillor with voting rights has breached the Council's code of conduct, the Proper Officer shall, subject to standing order 12, report this to the Council.
- b Where the notification in standing order 13(a) relates to a complaint made by the Proper Officer, the Proper Officer shall notify the Chair of Council of this fact, and the Chair shall nominate another staff member to assume the duties of the Proper Officer in relation to the complaint until it has been determined.
- c The Council may:
  - i. provide information or evidence where such disclosure is necessary to investigate the complaint or is a legal requirement;
  - ii. seek information relevant to the complaint from the person or body with statutory responsibility for investigation of the matter;
  - iii. indemnify the councillor or non-councillor with voting rights in respect of their related legal costs and any such indemnity is subject to approval by a meeting of the Council.

15. **PROPER OFFICER**

- a The Proper Officer shall be either (i) the clerk or (ii) other staff member(s) nominated by the Council to undertake the work of the Proper Officer when the Proper Officer is absent.

- i. The Proper Officer shall **at least three clear days before a meeting of the council, a committee** or a sub-committee:
  - a) Arrange for the serving of the notice (including how the meeting may be accessed virtually, (if applicable) which must be published electronically and in a conspicuous place in the community at least three clear days before the meeting, or if the meeting is convened at shorter notice, at the time it is convened.
  - b) If a member wants to receive the summons in writing rather than electronically, they must give notice in writing to the clerk and specify the postal address to which the summons should be sent.
  - c) The notice must provide details about how to access the meeting remotely , and the time and place of the meeting. The place may be omitted if the meeting is held by remote means only.
  - d) The notice must be available in a conspicuous place giving notice of the time, place and agenda (provided that the public notice with agenda of an extraordinary meeting of the Council convened by councillors is signed by them) and published electronically with notice of the time and place and, as far as reasonably practicable, any documents relating to the business to be transacted at the meeting unless they relate to business which is likely to be considered in private or if their disclosure would be contrary to any enactment.

*See standing order 3(b)(a) for the meaning of clear days for a meeting of a full council and for a meeting of a committee;*

- ii. subject to standing order 9, include on the agenda all motions in the order received unless a councillor has given written notice at least 3 days before the meeting confirming their withdrawal of it;
- iii. **convene a meeting of Council for the election of a new Chair of the Council, occasioned by a casual vacancy in their office;**
- iv. **facilitate inspection of the minute book by local government electors;**
- v. **receive and retain copies of byelaws made by other local authorities;**
- vi. hold acceptance of office forms from councillors;
- vii. hold a copy of every councillor's register of interests where the Council has resolved to require councillors to declare interests upfront;
- viii. assist with responding to requests made under freedom of information legislation and rights exercisable under data protection legislation, in accordance with the Council's relevant policies and procedures;

- ix. liaise, as appropriate, with the Council's Data Protection Officer (if there is one);
  - x. receive and send general correspondence and notices on behalf of the Council except where there is a resolution to the contrary;
  - xi. assist in the organisation of, storage of, access to, security of and destruction of information held by the Council in paper and electronic form subject to the requirements of freedom of information and data protection legislation and other legitimate requirements (e.g., the Limitation Act 1980);
  - xii. arrange for legal deeds to be executed;
- See also standing order 22;*
- xiii. arrange or manage the prompt authorisation, approval, and instruction regarding any payments to be made by the Council in accordance with its financial regulations;
  - xiv. record every planning application notified to the Council and the Council's response to the local planning authority in a book or file for such purpose;
  - xv. refer a planning application received by the Council to the Council Planning Committee within two working days of receipt to facilitate an extraordinary meeting if the nature of a planning application requires consideration before the next ordinary meeting committee;
  - xvi. manage access to information about the Council via the publication scheme; and
  - xvii. retain custody of the seal of the Council (if there is one) which shall not be used without a resolution to that effect.

*See also standing order 2 2.*

**16. RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER**

- a The Council shall appoint appropriate staff member(s) to undertake the work of the Responsible Financial Officer when the Responsible Financial Officer is absent.

**17. ACCOUNTS AND ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS**

- a “Proper practices” in standing orders refer to the most recent version of “Governance and Accountability for Local Councils in Wales – A Practitioners’ Guide.”
- b All payments by the Council shall be authorised, approved and paid in accordance with the law, proper practices and the Council’s financial regulations.
- c The Responsible Financial Officer shall supply to each councillor as soon as practicable 30 September in each year a statement to summarise:
  - i. the Council’s receipts and payments (or income and expenditure);
  - ii. the Council’s aggregate receipts and payments (or income and expenditure) for the year to date;
  - iii. the balances held at the end of the quarter being reported and which includes a comparison with the budget for the financial year and highlights any actual or potential overspends.
- d As soon as possible after the financial year end at 31 March, the Responsible Financial Officer shall provide:
  - i. each councillor with a statement summarising the Council’s receipts and payments (or income and expenditure) for the last quarter and the year to date for information; and
  - ii. to the Council the accounting statements for the year in the form of Section 2 of the annual governance and accountability return, as required by proper practices, for consideration and approval.
- e The year-end accounting statements shall be prepared in accordance with proper practices and apply the form of accounts determined by the Council (receipts and payments or income and expenditure) for the year to 31 March. A completed draft annual governance and accountability return shall be presented to all councillors at least 14 days prior to anticipated approval by the Council. The annual governance and accountability return of the Council, which is subject to external audit, including the annual governance statement, shall be presented to the Council for consideration and formal approval before 30 June.

**18. FINANCIAL CONTROLS AND PROCUREMENT**

- a The Council shall consider and approve financial regulations drawn up by the



Responsible Financial Officer, which shall include detailed arrangements in respect of the following:

- i. the keeping of accounting records and systems of internal controls;
  - ii. the assessment and management of financial risks faced by the Council;
  - iii. the work of the independent internal auditor in accordance with proper practices and the receipt of regular reports from the internal auditor, which shall be required at least annually;
  - iv. the inspection and copying by councillors and local electors of the Council's accounts and/or orders of payments; and
  - v. whether contracts with an estimated value below **£25,000** due to special circumstances are exempt from a tendering process or procurement exercise.
- b Financial regulations shall be reviewed regularly and at least annually for fitness of purpose.
- c **A public contract regulated by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 with an estimated value in excess of £25,000 but less than the relevant thresholds referred to in standing order 17(f) is subject to the "light touch" arrangements under Regulations 109-114 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 unless it proposes to use an existing list of approved suppliers (framework agreement).**
- d Subject to additional requirements in the financial regulations of the Council, the tender process for contracts for the supply of goods, materials, services or the execution of works shall include, as a minimum, the following steps:
- i. a specification for the goods, materials, services or the execution of works shall be drawn up;
  - ii. an invitation to tender shall be drawn up to confirm (i) the Council's specification (ii) the time, date and address for the submission of tenders (iii) the date of the Council's written response to the tender and (iv) the prohibition on prospective contractors contacting councillors or staff to encourage or support their tender outside the prescribed process;
  - iii. the invitation to tender shall be advertised in a local newspaper and in any other manner that is appropriate;
  - iv. tenders are to be submitted in writing in a sealed marked envelope

addressed to the Proper Officer;

- v. tenders shall be opened by the Proper Officer in the presence of at least one councillor after the deadline for submission of tenders has passed;
  - vi. tenders are to be reported to and considered by the appropriate meeting of the Council or a committee or sub-committee with delegated responsibility.
- e Neither the Council, nor a committee or a sub-committee with delegated responsibility for considering tenders, is bound to accept the lowest value tender.
- f **Where the value of a contract is likely to exceed the threshold specified by the Office of Government Commerce from time to time, the Council must consider whether the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or the Utilities Contracts Regulations 2016 apply to the contract and, if either of those Regulations apply, the Council must comply with procurement rules. OVW can supply Council's with further information in this regard.**

#### 19. HANDLING STAFF MATTERS

- a A matter personal to a member of staff that is being considered by a meeting of the Council OR the sub-committee] is subject to standing order 10.
- b Subject to the Council's policy regarding absences from work, the Council's most senior member of staff shall notify the chair of the Council OR the sub-committee or, if they are not available, the vice-chair (if there is one) of the Council OR the sub-committee] of absence occasioned by illness or other reason and that person shall report such absence to the Council OR the sub-committee] at its next meeting.
- c The chair of the Council committee] OR the sub-committee] or in their absence, the vice-chair shall upon a resolution conduct a review of the performance and annual appraisal of the work of [the member of staff's job title]. The reviews and appraisal shall be reported in writing and are subject to approval by resolution by the Council.
- d Subject to the Council's policy regarding the handling of grievance matters, the Council's most senior member of staff (or other members of staff) shall contact the chairman of the Council or in his absence, the vice-chairman of the Council in respect of an informal or formal grievance matter, and this matter shall be reported back and progressed by resolution of the Council.

- e Subject to the Council's policy regarding the handling of grievance matters, if an informal or formal grievance matter raised by a member of staff relates to the chairman or vice-chairman of the Council, this shall be communicated to another member of the Council, which shall be reported back and progressed by resolution of the Council.
- f Any persons responsible for all or part of the management of staff shall treat as confidential the written records of all meetings relating to their performance, capabilities, grievance or disciplinary matters.
- g In accordance with standing order 11(a), persons with line management responsibilities shall have access to staff records referred to in standing order 19(f).

20. **RESPONSIBILITIES TO PROVIDE INFORMATION**

*See also standing order 21.*

- a **In accordance with freedom of information legislation, the Council shall publish information in accordance with its publication scheme and respond to requests for information held by the Council.**

21. **RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION**

(Below is not an exclusive list).

*See also standing order 11.*

- a The Council may appoint a Data Protection Officer.
- b **The Council shall have policies and procedures in place to respond to an individual exercising statutory rights concerning their personal data.**
- c **The Council shall have a written policy in place for responding to and managing a personal data breach.**
- d **The Council shall keep a record of all personal data breaches comprising the facts relating to the personal data breach, its effects and the remedial action taken.**
- e **The Council shall ensure that information communicated in its privacy notice(s) is in an easily accessible and available form and kept up to date.**

- f **The Council shall maintain a written record of its processing activities.**

**22. RELATIONS WITH THE PRESS/MEDIA**

- a Requests from the press or other media for an oral or written comment or statement from the Council, its councillors or staff shall be handled in accordance with the Council's policy in respect of dealing with the press and/or other media.

**23. EXECUTION AND SEALING OF LEGAL DEEDS**

*See also standing orders 15(b)(xii) and (xvii).*

- a A legal deed shall not be executed on behalf of the Council unless authorised by a resolution.
- b **[Subject to standing order 23(a), the Council's common seal shall alone be used for sealing a deed required by law. It shall be applied by the Proper Officer in the presence of two councillors who shall sign the deed as witnesses.]**

*The above is applicable to a Council with a common seal.*

OR

**[Subject to standing order 23(a), any two councillors may sign on behalf of the Council, any deed required by law and the Proper Officer shall witness their signatures.]**

*The above is applicable to a Council without a common seal.*

**24. COMMUNICATING WITH COUNTY BOROUGH OR COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

- a An invitation to attend a meeting of the Council shall be sent, together with the agenda, to the ward councillor(s) of the County Council representing the area of the Council.
- b Unless the Council determines otherwise, a copy of each letter sent to the County Council shall be sent to the ward councillor representing the area of the Council.

**25. RESTRICTIONS ON COUNCILLOR ACTIVITIES**

- a. Unless duly authorised no councillor shall:
  - i. inspect any land and/or premises which the Council has a right or duty to inspect; or
  - ii. issue orders, instructions or directions.

**26. STANDING ORDERS GENERALLY**

- a. All or part of a standing order, except one that incorporates mandatory statutory or legal requirements, may be suspended by resolution in relation to the consideration of an item on the agenda for a meeting.
- b. A motion to add to or vary or revoke one or more of the Council's standing orders, except one that incorporates mandatory statutory or legal requirements, shall be proposed by a special motion, the written notice by at least 3 councillors to be given to the Proper Officer in accordance with standing order 9.
- c. The Proper Officer shall provide a copy of the Council's standing orders to a councillor as soon as possible.
- d. The decision of the chair of a meeting as to the application of standing orders at the meeting shall be final.

# LLANGAMMARCH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

*These Financial Regulations were adopted by the Council at its Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024*

### Llangammarch Community Council FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

#### **Contents**

1. <u>General</u> .....	31
2. <u>Risk management and internal control</u> .....	32
3. <u>Accounts and audit</u> .....	33
4. <u>Budget and precept</u> .....	34
5. <u>Procurement</u> .....	35
6. <u>Banking and payments</u> .....	37
7. <u>Electronic payments</u> .....	38
8. <u>Cheque payments</u> .....	39
9. <u>Payment cards</u> .....	40
10. <u>Petty Cash</u> .....	40
11. <u>Payment of salaries and allowances</u> .....	405
12. <u>Loans and investments</u> .....	41
13. <u>Income</u> .....	41
14. <u>Payments under contracts for building or other construction works</u> .....	42
15. <u>Stores and equipment</u> .....	427
16. <u>Assets, properties and estates</u> .....	42
17. <u>Insurance</u> .....	43
18. <u>[Charities]</u> .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
19. <u>Suspension and revision of Financial Regulations</u> .....	43
<u>Appendix 1 - Tender process</u> .....	43

These Financial Regulations were adopted by the council at its meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

## General

These Financial Regulations govern the financial management of the council and may only be amended or varied by resolution of the council. They are one of the council's governing documents and shall be observed in conjunction with the council's Standing Orders.

Councillors are expected to follow these regulations and not to entice employees to breach them. Failure to follow these regulations brings the office of councillor into disrepute.

Wilful breach of these regulations by an employee may result in disciplinary proceedings.

In these Financial Regulations:

- 'Accounts and Audit Regulations' means the regulations issued under Section 39 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004, or any superseding legislation, and then in force, unless otherwise specified.
- "Approve" refers to an online action, allowing an electronic transaction to take place.
- "Authorise" refers to a decision by the council, or a committee or an officer, to allow something to happen.
- 'Proper practices' means those set out in *The Practitioners' Guide*
- *Practitioners' Guide* the Governance and Accountability for Local Councils in Wales – A Practitioners Guide jointly published by One Voice Wales and the Society of Local Council Clerks in Wales.
- 'Must' and **bold text** refer to a statutory obligation the council cannot change.
- 'Shall' refers to a non-statutory instruction by the council to its members and staff.

The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) holds a statutory office, appointed by the council. The Clerk has been appointed as RFO and these regulations apply accordingly. The RFO;

- acts under the policy direction of the council;
- administers the council's financial affairs in accordance with all Acts, Regulations and proper practices;
- determines on behalf of the council its accounting records and control systems;
- ensures the accounting control systems are observed;
- ensures the accounting records are kept up to date;
- seeks economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of council resources; and
- produces financial management information as required by the council.

**The council must not delegate any decision regarding:**

- **setting the final budget or the precept (council tax requirement);**
- **the outcome of a review of the effectiveness of its internal controls**
- **approving accounting statements;**
- **approving an annual governance statement;**
- **borrowing;**
- **declaring eligibility for the General Power of Competence; and**
- **addressing recommendations from the internal or external auditors.**

In addition, the council shall:

- determine and regularly review the bank mandate for all council bank accounts;
  - authorise any grant or single commitment in excess of [£5,000].
- **Risk management and internal control**

**The council must ensure that it has a sound system of internal control, which delivers effective financial, operational and risk management.**

The Clerk /RFO shall prepare, for approval by [the council], a risk management policy covering all activities of the council. This policy and consequential risk management arrangements shall be reviewed by the council at least annually.

When considering any new activity, the Clerk/RFO shall prepare a draft risk assessment including risk management proposals for consideration by the council.

**At least once a year, the council must review the effectiveness of its system of internal control, before approving the Annual Governance Statement.**

**The accounting control systems determined by the RFO must include measures to:**

- **ensure that risk is appropriately managed;**
- **ensure the prompt, accurate recording of financial transactions;**
- **prevent and detect inaccuracy or fraud; and**
- **allow the reconstitution of any lost records;**
- **identify the duties of officers dealing with transactions and**
- **ensure division of responsibilities.**

*At least once in each year, and at each financial year end, a member other than the Chair {or a cheque signatory} shall be appointed to verify bank reconciliations (for all accounts) produced by the RFO. The member shall sign and date the reconciliations and the original bank statements (or similar*



*document) as evidence of this. This activity, including any exceptions, shall be reported to and noted by the council.*

Regular back-up copies shall be made of the records on any council computer and stored either online or in a separate location from the computer. The council shall put measures in place to ensure that the ability to access any council computer is not lost if an employee leaves or is incapacitated for any reason.

- **Accounts and audit**

All accounting procedures and financial records of the council shall be determined by the RFO in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

**The accounting records determined by the RFO must be sufficient to explain the council's transactions and to disclose its financial position with reasonably accuracy at any time. In particular, they must contain:**

- **day-to-day entries of all sums of money received and expended by the council (documented in the cash book) and the matters to which they relate;**
- **a record of the assets and liabilities of the council.**

The accounting records shall be designed to facilitate the efficient preparation of the accounting statements in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return.

The RFO shall complete and certify the annual Accounting Statements of the council contained in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with proper practices, as soon as practicable after the end of the financial year. Having certified the Accounting Statements, the RFO shall submit them (with any related documents) to the council, within the timescales required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

**The council must ensure that there is an adequate and effective system of internal audit of its accounting records and internal control system in accordance with proper practices.**

**Any officer or member of the council must make available such documents and records as the internal or external auditor consider necessary for the purpose of the audit** and shall, as directed by the council, supply the RFO, internal auditor, or external auditor with such information and explanation as the council considers necessary.

The internal auditor shall be appointed by the council or a committee of the council and shall carry out their work to evaluate the effectiveness of the council's risk management, control and governance processes in accordance with proper practices specified in the Practitioners' Guide.

The council shall ensure that the internal auditor:

- is competent and independent of the financial operations of the council;
- reports to council in writing, or in person, on a regular basis with a minimum of one written report during each financial year;

- can demonstrate competence, objectivity and independence, free from any actual or perceived conflicts of interest, including those arising from family relationships; and
- has no involvement in the management or control of the council.

The Internal Auditor may not under any circumstances:

- perform any operational duties for the council;
- initiate or approve accounting transactions;
- provide financial, legal or other advice including in relation to any future transactions; or
- direct the activities of any council employee, except to the extent that such employees have been appropriately assigned to assist the internal auditor.

For the avoidance of doubt, in relation to internal audit the terms 'independent' and 'independence' shall have the same meaning as described in The Practitioners Guide.

The RFO shall make arrangements for the exercise of electors' rights in relation to the accounts, including the opportunity to inspect the accounts, books, and vouchers and display or publish any notices and documents required by Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations.

The RFO shall, without undue delay, bring to the attention of all councillors any correspondence or report from internal or external auditors.

- **Budget and precept**

**Before setting a precept, the council must calculate its budget requirement for each financial year by preparing and approving a budget, in accordance with The Local Government Finance Act 1992 or succeeding legislation.**

Budgets for salaries and wages, including employer contributions shall be reviewed by at least annually in for the following financial year and the final version shall be evidenced by a hard copy schedule signed by the Clerk and the Chair of the Council.

No later than November each year, the RFO shall prepare a draft budget with detailed estimates of all receipts and payments/income and expenditure for the following financial year taking account of the lifespan of assets and cost implications of repair or replacement.

Unspent budgets for completed projects shall not be carried forward to a subsequent year.

In appropriate cases, each committee (if any) shall review its draft budget and submit any proposed amendments to the council not later than the end of November each year.

The draft budget forecast, including any recommendations for the use or accumulation of reserves, shall be considered by the council.

Having considered the proposed budget and forecast, the council shall determine its budget requirement by setting a budget. The council shall set a precept for this amount no later than the end of January for the ensuing financial year.

**Any member with council tax unpaid for more than two months is prohibited from voting on the budget or precept by Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and must disclose at the start of the meeting that Section 106 applies to them.**

The RFO shall **issue the precept to the billing authority no later than the end of February** and supply each member with a copy of the agreed annual budget.

The agreed budget provides a basis for monitoring progress during the year by comparing actual spending and income against what was planned.

Any addition to, or withdrawal from, any earmarked reserve shall be agreed by the council {or relevant committee}.

- **Procurement**

**Members and officers are responsible for obtaining value for money at all times.** Any officer procuring goods, services or works should ensure, as far as practicable, that the best available terms are obtained, usually by obtaining prices from several suppliers.

The RFO should verify the lawful nature of any proposed purchase before it is made and in the case of new or infrequent purchases, should ensure that the legal power being used is reported to the meeting at which the order is authorised and also recorded in the minutes.

Every contract shall comply with the council's Standing Orders and these Financial Regulations and no exceptions shall be made, except in an emergency.

**For a contract for the supply of goods, services or works where the estimated value will exceed the thresholds set by Parliament, the full requirements of The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or any superseding legislation ("the Legislation"), must be followed in respect of the tendering, award and notification of that contract.**

Where the estimated value is below the Government threshold, the council shall (with the exception of items listed in paragraph 6.12) obtain prices as follows:

For contracts estimated to exceed £30,000 including VAT, the Clerk shall seek formal tenders from at least three suppliers agreed by the council OR advertise an open invitation for tenders in compliance with any relevant provisions of the Legislation. Tenders shall be invited in accordance with Appendix 1.

**For contracts estimated to be over £20,000 including VAT, the council must comply with any requirements of the Legislation<sup>1</sup> regarding the advertising of contract opportunities and the publication of notices about the award of contracts.**

For contracts greater than £3,000 excluding VAT the Clerk/RFO shall seek at least 3 fixed-price quotes.

Where the value is between £500 and £3,000 excluding VAT, the Clerk/RFO shall try to obtain 3 estimates which might include evidence of online prices, or recent prices from regular suppliers.

For smaller purchases, the Clerk shall seek to achieve value for money.

**Contracts must not be split into smaller lots to avoid compliance with these rules.**

The requirement to obtain competitive prices in these regulations need not apply to contracts that relate to items (i) to (iv) below:

- i. specialist services, such as legal professionals acting in disputes;
- ii. repairs to, or parts for, existing machinery or equipment;
- iii. works, goods or services that constitute an extension of an existing contract;
- iv. goods or services that are only available from one supplier or are sold at a fixed price.

When applications are made to waive this financial regulation to enable a price to be negotiated without competition, the reason should be set out in a recommendation to the council {or relevant committee}. Avoidance of competition is not a valid reason.

The council shall not be obliged to accept the lowest or any tender, quote or estimate.

Individual purchases within an agreed budget for that type of expenditure may be authorised by:

- the Clerk, under delegated authority, for any items below £500 excluding VAT.
- the Clerk, in consultation with the Chair of the Council {or Chair of the appropriate committee}, for any items below £1,000 excluding VAT.
- in respect of grants, a duly authorised committee within any limits set by council and in accordance with any policy statement agreed by the council.
- the council for all items over £1,000;

Such authorisation must be supported by a minute (in the case of council or committee decisions) or other auditable evidence trail.

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<sup>1</sup> The Regulations require councils to use the Sell2 Wales website if they advertise contract opportunities and also to publicise the award of contracts over £30,000 including VAT, regardless of whether they were advertised.

No individual member, or informal group of members may issue an official order {unless instructed to do so in advance by a resolution of the council} or make any contract on behalf of the council.

No expenditure may be authorised that will exceed the budget for that type of expenditure other than by resolution of the council except in an emergency.

In cases of serious risk to the delivery of council services or to public safety on council premises, the clerk may authorise expenditure of up to £1,000 excluding VAT on repair, replacement or other work that in their judgement is necessary, whether or not there is any budget for such expenditure. The Clerk shall report such action to the Chair as soon as possible and to the council as soon as practicable thereafter.

No expenditure shall be authorised, no contract entered into or tender accepted in relation to any major project, unless the council is satisfied that the necessary funds are available and that where a loan is required, Welsh Government borrowing approval has been obtained first.

An official order or letter shall be issued for all work, goods and services {above £250 excluding VAT} unless a formal contract is to be prepared or an official order would be inappropriate. Copies of orders shall be retained, along with evidence of receipt of goods.

Any ordering system can be misused and access to them shall be controlled by the RFO.

- **Banking and payments**

The council's banking arrangements, including the bank mandate, shall be made by the RFO and authorised by the council; banking arrangements shall not be delegated to a committee. The council has resolved to bank with [name bank]. The arrangements shall be reviewed annually for security and efficiency.

The council must have safe and efficient arrangements for making payments, to safeguard against the possibility of fraud or error. Wherever possible, more than one person should be involved in any payment, for example by dual online authorisation or dual cheque signing. Even where a purchase has been authorised, the payment must also be authorised and only authorised payments shall be approved or signed to allow the funds to leave the council's bank.

All invoices for payment should be examined for arithmetical accuracy, analysed to the appropriate expenditure heading and verified to confirm that the work, goods or services were received, checked and represent expenditure previously authorised by the council before being certified by the RFO.

Personal payments (including salaries, wages, expenses and any payment made in relation to the termination of employment) may be summarised to avoid disclosing any personal information.

All payments shall be made by online banking/cheque, in accordance with a resolution of the council or a delegated decision by an officer, unless the council resolves to use a different payment method.

For each financial year [the RFO] may draw up a schedule of regular payments due in relation to a continuing contract or obligation (such as Salaries, PAYE, National Insurance, pension contributions, rent, rates, regular maintenance contracts and similar items), which the council may authorise in advance for the year.

A copy of this schedule of regular payments shall be signed by [two members

A list of such payments shall be reported to the next appropriate meeting of the council for information only.

The Clerk/ RFO shall have delegated authority to authorise payments in the following circumstances:

- i. {any payments of up to [£500] excluding VAT, within an agreed budget}.
- ii. payments of up to [£1,000] excluding VAT in cases of serious risk to the delivery of council services or to public safety on council premises.
- iii. any payment necessary to avoid a charge under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 {or to comply with contractual terms}, where the due date for payment is before the next scheduled meeting of [the council], where the Clerk/RFO certify that there is no dispute or other reason to delay payment, provided that a list of such payments shall be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of council {or finance committee}.
- iv. Fund transfers within the councils banking arrangements up to the sum of £10,000, provided that a list of such payments shall be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of council.

The RFO shall present a schedule of payments requiring authorisation, forming part of the agenda for the meeting, together with the relevant invoices, to the council. The council shall review the schedule for compliance and, having satisfied itself, shall authorise payment by resolution. The authorised schedule shall be initialled immediately below the last item by the person chairing the meeting. A detailed list of all payments shall be disclosed within or as an attachment to the minutes of that meeting.

- **Electronic payments**

Where internet banking arrangements are made with any bank, the RFO shall be appointed as the Service Administrator. The bank mandate agreed by the council shall identify two councillors who will be authorised to approve transactions on those accounts and a minimum of two people will be involved in any online approval process. {The Clerk may be an authorised signatory, but no signatory should be involved in approving any payment to themselves.}

All authorised signatories shall have access to view the council's bank accounts online.

No employee or councillor shall disclose any PIN or password, relevant to the council or its banking, to anyone not authorised in writing by the council or a duly delegated committee.

The Service Administrator shall set up all items due for payment online. A list of payments for approval, together with copies of the relevant invoices, shall be sent [by email] to [two] authorised signatories.

In the prolonged absence of the Service Administrator [an authorised signatory] shall set up any payments due before the return of the Service Administrator.

Two authorised signatories shall check the payment details against the invoices before approving each payment using the online banking system.

Evidence shall be retained showing which members approved the payment online and a printout of the transaction confirming that the payment has been made shall be appended to the invoice for audit purposes.

A full list of all payments made in a month shall be provided to the next council meeting.

With the approval of [the council] in each case, regular payments (such as gas, electricity, telephone, broadband, water, National Non-Domestic Rates, refuse collection, pension contributions and HMRC payments) may be made by variable direct debit, provided that the instructions are [signed/approved online] by [two authorised members]. The approval of the use of each variable direct debit shall be reviewed by [the council] at least every two years.

Payment may be made by BACS or CHAPS by resolution of the council provided that each payment is approved online by two authorised bank signatories, evidence is retained and any payments are reported to the council at the next meeting. The approval of the use of BACS or CHAPS shall be renewed by resolution of the council at least every two years.

If thought appropriate by the council, regular payments of fixed sums may be made by banker's standing order, provided that the instructions are signed by two members, evidence of this is retained and any payments are reported to council when made. The approval of the use of a banker's standing order shall be reviewed by the council at least every two years.

Account details for suppliers may only be changed upon written notification by the supplier verified by the Clerk/the RFO and a member. This is a potential area for fraud and the individuals involved should ensure that any change is genuine. Data held should be checked with suppliers every two years.

Members and officers shall ensure that any computer used for the council's financial business has adequate security, with anti-virus, anti-spyware and firewall software installed and regularly updated.

Remembered password facilities should not be used on any computer used for council banking.

- **Cheque payments**

Cheques or orders for payment in accordance in accordance with a resolution or delegated decision shall be signed by two members.

A signatory having a family or business relationship with the beneficiary of a payment shall not, under normal circumstances, be a signatory to that payment.

To indicate agreement of the details on the cheque with the counterfoil and the invoice or similar documentation, the signatories shall also initial the cheque counterfoil and invoice.

Cheques or orders for payment shall not normally be presented for signature other than at, or immediately before or after a council meeting}. Any signatures obtained away from council meetings shall be reported to the council at the next convenient meeting.

- **Payment cards (not applicable to Llangammarch CC)**

Any Debit Card issued for use will be specifically restricted to [the Clerk and the RFO] and will also be restricted to a single transaction maximum value of [£500] unless authorised by council or finance committee in writing before any order is placed.

A pre-paid debit card may be issued to employees with varying limits. These limits will be set by [the council]. Transactions and purchases made will be reported to [the council] and authority for topping-up shall be at the discretion of [the council].

Any corporate credit card or trade card account opened by the council will be specifically restricted to use by the Clerk {and RFO} {specify other officers} and any balance shall be paid in full each month.

Personal credit or debit cards of members or staff shall not be used {under any circumstances.} OR {except for expenses of up to [£250] including VAT, incurred in accordance with council policy.}

- **Petty Cash**

- a) The council will not maintain any form of cash float. All cash received must be banked intact. Any payments made in cash by the Clerk/RFO (for example for postage or minor stationery items) shall be refunded on a regular basis, at least quarterly.} Vouchers for payments made from petty cash shall be kept, along with receipts to substantiate every payment.

- **Payment of salaries and allowances**

**As an employer, the council must make arrangements to comply with the statutory requirements of PAYE legislation.**

**Guidance issued by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales in relation to the taxation of councillor allowances must be fully adhered to.**

Salary rates shall be agreed by the council, or a duly delegated committee. No changes shall be made to any employee's gross pay, emoluments, or terms and conditions of employment without the prior consent of the council.



Payment of salaries shall be made, after deduction of tax, national insurance, pension contributions and any similar statutory or discretionary deductions, on the dates stipulated in employment contracts.

Deductions from salary shall be paid to the relevant bodies within the required timescales, provided that each payment is reported, as set out in these regulations above.

Each payment to employees of net salary and to the appropriate creditor of the statutory and discretionary deductions shall be recorded in a payroll control account or other separate confidential record, with the total of such payments each calendar month reported in the cashbook. Payroll reports will be reviewed by [the finance committee] to ensure that the correct payments have been made.

Any termination payments shall be supported by a report to the council, setting out a clear business case. Termination payments shall only be authorised by the full council.

Before employing interim staff, the council must consider a full business case.

- **Loans and investments**

Any application for Welsh Government approval to borrow money and subsequent arrangements for a loan must be authorised by the full council and recorded in the minutes. All borrowing shall be in the name of the council, after obtaining any necessary approval.

Any financial arrangement which does not require formal borrowing approval from the Welsh Government (such as Hire Purchase, Leasing of tangible assets or loans to be repaid within the financial year) must be authorised by the full council, following a written report on the value for money of the proposed transaction.

The council shall consider the requirement for an Investment Strategy and Policy in accordance with Statutory Guidance on Local Government Investments, which must be written in accordance with relevant regulations, proper practices and guidance. Any Strategy and Policy shall be reviewed by the council at least annually.

All investment of money under the control of the council shall be in the name of the council.

All investment certificates and other documents relating thereto shall be retained in the custody of the RFO.

Payments in respect of short term or long-term investments, including transfers between bank accounts held in the same bank, shall be made in accordance with these regulations.

- **Income**

The collection of all sums due to the council shall be the responsibility of and under the supervision of the RFO.

The council will review all fees and charges for work done, services provided, or goods sold at least annually as part of the budget-setting process, following

a report of the Clerk. The RFO shall be responsible for the collection of all amounts due to the council.

Any sums found to be irrecoverable and any bad debts shall be reported to the council by the RFO and shall be written off in the year. The council's approval shall be shown in the accounting records.

All sums received on behalf of the council shall be deposited intact with the council's bankers, with such frequency as the RFO considers necessary. The origin of each receipt shall clearly be recorded on the paying-in slip or other record.

Personal cheques shall not be cashed out of money held on behalf of the council.

Any repayment claim under section 33 of the VAT Act 1994 shall be made quarterly where the claim exceeds £100 and at least annually at the end of the financial year.

- **Payments under contracts for building or other construction works**

Where contracts provide for payment by instalments the RFO shall maintain a record of all such payments, which shall be made within the time specified in the contract based on signed certificates from the architect or other consultant engaged to supervise the works.

Any variation of, addition to or omission from a contract must be authorised by the Clerk to the contractor in writing, with the council being informed where the final cost is likely to exceed the contract sum by 5% or more, or likely to exceed the budget available.

- **Stores and equipment**

The officer in charge of each section shall be responsible for the care and custody of stores and equipment [in that section].

Delivery notes shall be obtained in respect of all goods received into store or otherwise delivered and goods must be checked as to order and quality at the time delivery is made.

Stocks shall be kept at the minimum levels consistent with operational requirements.

The RFO shall be responsible for periodic checks of stocks and stores, at least annually.

- **Assets, properties and estates**

The Clerk shall make arrangements for the safe custody of all title deeds and Land Registry Certificates of properties held by the council.

The RFO shall ensure that an appropriate and accurate Register of Assets and Investments is kept up to date, with a record of all properties held by the council, their location, extent, plan, reference, purchase details, nature of the interest, tenancies granted, rents payable and purpose for which held, in accordance with Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations.

The continued existence of tangible assets shown in the Register shall be verified at least annually, possibly in conjunction with a health and safety inspection of assets.

No interest in land shall be purchased or otherwise acquired, sold, leased or otherwise disposed of without the authority of the council, together with any other consents required by law. In each case a written report shall be provided to council in respect of valuation and surveyed condition of the property (including matters such as planning permissions and covenants) together with a proper business case (including an adequate level of consultation with the electorate where required by law).

No tangible moveable property shall be purchased or otherwise acquired, sold, leased or otherwise disposed of, without the authority of the council, together with any other consents required by law, except where the estimated value of any one item does not exceed £100. In each case a written report shall be provided to council with a full business case.

- **Insurance**

The Clerk/RFO shall keep a record of all insurances effected by the council and the property and risks covered, reviewing these annually before the renewal date in conjunction with the council's review of risk management.

The Clerk shall give prompt notification to of all new risks, properties or vehicles which require to be insured and of any alterations affecting existing insurances.

The RFO shall be notified of any loss, liability, damage or event likely to lead to a claim, and shall report these to [the council] at the next available meeting. The RFO shall negotiate all claims on the council's insurers.

All appropriate members and employees of the council shall be included in a suitable form of security or fidelity guarantee insurance which shall cover the maximum risk exposure as determined [annually] by the council, or duly delegated committee.

- **Suspension and revision of Financial Regulations**

The council shall review these Financial Regulations annually and following any change of Clerk/RFO. The Clerk shall monitor changes in legislation or proper practices and advise the council of any need to amend these Financial Regulations.

The council may, by resolution duly notified prior to the relevant meeting of council, suspend any part of these Financial Regulations, provided that reasons for the suspension are recorded and that an assessment of the risks arising has been presented to all members. Suspension does not disapply any legislation or permit the council to act unlawfully.

The council may temporarily amend these Financial Regulations by a duly notified resolution, to cope with periods of absence, local government reorganisation, national restrictions or other exceptional circumstances.

## **Appendix 1 - Tender process**

- 1) Any invitation to tender shall state the general nature of the intended contract and the Clerk shall obtain the necessary technical assistance to prepare a specification in appropriate cases.
- 2) The invitation shall in addition state that tenders must be addressed to the Clerk in the ordinary course of post, unless an electronic tendering process has been agreed by the council.
- 3) Where a postal process is used, each tendering firm shall be supplied with a specifically marked envelope in which the tender is to be sealed and remain sealed until the prescribed date for opening tenders for that contract. All sealed tenders shall be opened at the same time on the prescribed date by the Clerk in the presence of at least one member of council.
- 4) Where an electronic tendering process is used, the council shall use a specific email address that will be monitored to ensure that nobody accesses any tender before the expiry of the deadline for submission.
- 5) Any invitation to tender issued under this regulation shall be subject to Standing Order [insert reference of the council's relevant standing order] and shall refer to the terms of the Bribery Act 2010.

Where the council, or duly delegated committee, does not accept any tender, quote or estimate, the work is not allocated and the council requires further pricing, no person shall be permitted to submit a later tender, estimate or quote who was present when the original decision-making process was being

## **Addenda**

### **Addendum - 1**

# **Model Local Resolution Protocol for Community and Town Councils**

# ONE VOICE WALES

## Model Local Resolution Protocol for Community and Town Councils

### Background

The Public Service Ombudsman has agreed to the principle of referring some complaints against Members back to Community and Town Councils for a local resolution. However to date there has not been a common process for Community and Town Councils to follow in dealing with such matters. To assist the sector, One Voice Wales has drawn up the following as a model protocol which any Community and Town Council can use in dealing with such complaints.

This model protocol is meant as a starting point for Community and Town councils. Individual councils may wish to add or amend this model to suit their particular needs. Councils wishing to use this process should first of all be clear about its purpose and intention, formally adopt it in its current or in a revised form and ensure that all Councillors are provided with a copy for their attention. The Council should then determine the framework through which it is operated which may require the establishment of a Committee or Panel or an extension of the terms of reference of an existing Panel or Committee such as a Complaints Panel or Committee. In the case of establishment of a new Panel it is important that terms of reference are prepared and approved by the Council. In either case it will be important for Councils to document in the terms of reference as to what will happen if there is a lack of co-operation shown by the member concerned or a breakdown occurring during the operation of the process. For example, in such cases the default position might be that the matter is referred to the Public Ombudsman for Wales.

### The Local Resolution Process

#### Issues which should be considered under this process

Low level complaints about Members, including:

- Minor complaints from Members about Members
- Minor complaints from Officers about Members
- Members alleged to have not shown respect and consideration for others – either verbally or in writing

#### Issues which should not be considered under this process

Complaints which must be directed to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales, including:

- Complaints instigated by a member of the public
- Serious complaints – breaches of the Code of Conduct/failure to disclose interests/bullying/abuse of position or trust/repeated breaches
- Complaints made by the Clerk/Proper Officer
- Vexatious, malicious or frivolous complaints

- Members' complaints about officers which should be dealt with using the Council's internal complaints process
- Repetitive low-level complaints

## **The Process**

### **The complaint**

The complaint would need to be sent to the Clerk/Proper Officer of the Council to undertake a first sift to ensure that the complaint is at a low level and should not be dealt with by way of a complaint to the Ombudsman. If appropriate, therefore, the Clerk/Proper Officer should firstly seek an early resolution of any such dispute by liaising informally with the individual members concerned prior to the resolution process described below. It is vitally important that the 'accused' member is given full details of the complaint against them so that in the interests of natural justice they are in a position to prepare their response to the accusation.

### **Resolution Process**

The involvement of the Chair/Vice Chair of the Council in the following process is not to adjudicate on the complaint, but to attempt to get the members/officers involved to come to an agreement as to how the issue(s) could be resolved on an amicable basis.

The Clerk/Proper Officer will act as a facilitator for the resolution process below.

If the complaint is between Members other than the Chair of the Council, the Clerk/Proper Officer and the Chair will meet individually with the complainant and Member subject of the complaint to seek an agreed resolution.

If the complaint is between Members, one of whom is the Chair of Council, but not the Vice Chair, the Clerk/Proper Officer and the Vice Chair will meet with the complainant and Member subject of the complaint to seek an agreed resolution.

If the complaint has been made by an officer/employee, but not the Clerk/Proper Officer, against a Member other than the Chair of Council, the Clerk/Proper Officer and the Chair of Council will meet with the officer and the Member subject of the complaint to seek an agreed resolution.

If the complaint has been made by an officer/employee, but not the Clerk/Proper Officer, against the Chair of Council, the Clerk/Proper Officer and the Vice Chair of Council will meet with the officer and the Chair to seek an agreed resolution.

If the complaint has been made by the Clerk/Proper Officer, then it is likely to be best practice that this complaint is forwarded by way of a complaint to the Ombudsman.

**Possible results of the process**

If an agreement is reached by Members and/or officers during this Stage then no further action is required.

If agreement cannot be reached the aggrieved Member/officer would always have the opportunity of referring the matter to the Ombudsman.

Examples of agreements might include issue of a letter of apology, a written undertaking or commitment not to breach the Code of Conduct in the future, a commitment to undertake training or an agreement that on the basis of the evidence that no further action should be taken and the matter be closed.

**Time for the process**

It is the intention that all of the processes can be completed as quickly as possible to resolve the issue. However exact timing will depend on the availability of individuals to attend the meetings.



### ***Important Points to Note in preparing a process for use by the Council***

*The Clerk/Proper officer, Chair and Vice Chairs of Councils should consider receiving appropriate training in facilitation and mediation to be in a position to maximise the benefit of this process. Councils wishing to pursue this route should contact One Voice Wales for guidance.*

*Councils might want to include some guidance where complaints which are most appropriately dealt with under this process are referred back to the Council by PSOW. The PSOW could actively do this if the Council has an approved process.*

*It is suggested that any meetings held with a view to discussing the issues of complaints and/or resolving matters are at the very least minuted, if not recorded. This is to ensure that agreements are captured. This will also be useful in the event that matters break down or escalate and need to be referred to the PSOW. It may also be useful as evidence in the event of further similar breaches of the conduct and future conduct.*

*Councils need to be clear on their powers in respect of code of conduct matters. The Ombudsman has seen examples of councils who have deemed it appropriate to fully investigate a code complaint, decide that there has been a breach and some have even thought it appropriate to consider the issue of a sanction. Investigations of possible breaches of the Code are matters for the Ombudsman. The Local Government Act 2000 gives him the authority to carry out such investigations. The Council has no legal authority to undertake such investigations or to make findings of a breach of the Code of Conduct, which are decisions that can only be reached by a Standards Committee or the Adjudication Panel for Wales.*

## **Addendum 2 - Members' Code of Conduct Quick Reference Guide.**

### **DISCLAIMER:**

This guidance should not be taken to be an authoritative statement of the law.

For more detailed information - reference should always be made to the Members' Code of Conduct and the Guidance issued by the Public Services Ombudsman.

The responsibility for complying with the Members' Code of Conduct, dispensation requirements and issues around pre-determination rests with the individual Councillor who, in all cases of doubt, should seek advice from the Clerk/Monitoring Officer.

### **A. When Does the Code Apply?**

- At meetings of the Council;
- At meetings of Council Committees;
- At meetings of Sub-Committees of the Council;
- At Member and Officer Working Groups;
- At a Seminar or Workshop or other meeting where another Member or Officer is present (whether the occasion is public or private);
- At a gathering where another Member or Officer is present (whether the occasion is public or private);
- In a discussion where another Member or Officer is present (whether the occasion is public or private);
- When you act, or claim to act, or give the impression that you are acting as a councillor;
- When you act, or claim to act, or give the impression that you are acting as a representative of your Council;
- If you refer to yourself as Councillor e.g. in a conversation, in writing, email, fax or on another social networking service e.g. blog, Twitter or Facebook – the Code will apply to comments made there;
- In your private life (but only if such conduct would constitute a criminal offence).

### **B. When Do I Have a Personal and also a Prejudicial Interest?**

There are THREE Questions which you need to ask yourself:

#### **QUESTION 1 – Do I Have a PERSONAL INTEREST?**

PERSONAL INTEREST is any business of the Council which Relates To or Is Likely to Affect:

#### **Employment / Business / Companies / Firms / Expenses / Shares.**

- Your Employment
- Your Business
- A Person who has appointed you
- A firm where you are a partner
- A company where you are a paid director

- A person who contributed to your election expenses
- A person who has contributed to your councillor expenses
- A company where you have shares of more than £25,000 or 1% of the Share capital AND the company has a place of business OR land in the Council's area.

**Contracts.**

- Any contract for goods and services or works between your Council and:
- You
- A firm where you are a partner
- A company where you are a paid director
- A company where you have shares of more than £25,000 or 1% of the Share capital AND the company has a place of business OR land in the Council's area.

**Land.**

- Any land in the area of the Council which:
- You own (yourself or with others)
- Is held in trust for you (i.e. for yourself or for you and others)
- You hold on a lease / tenancy (yourself or with others)
- You hold a licence to occupy for 28 days or more (yourself or with others)
- Any land leased by your Council to:
- A firm where you are a partner
- A company where you are a paid director
- A company where you have shares of more than £25,000 or 1% of the Share capital AND the company has a place of business OR land in the Council's area.

**Bodies to which Elected / Appointed.**

- Any body to which you have been elected, appointed or nominated by your Council.

**Organisations where there is membership / Position of General Control or Management.**

- Any organisation where you are (i) A Member; (ii) Hold a Position of general control or management.
- Public authority or body exercising functions of a public nature e.g. school governing bodies
- Company / Industrial or provident Society / Charity / Body directed to charitable purposes.
- Body whose principle purpose includes influencing public opinion or policy.
- Trade union or professional association.
- Private club / society or association operating within the Council's area (Including national organisations operating locally)

**Ward v Whole Council.**

- Where a Member of the Public might believe there to be a conflict between your ward role and your wider role to represent all the electors within the Community Council / County Council area.

### **Well-Being / Financial Position.**

- Your well being or financial position i.e. quality of life
- The well being or financial position of a person you live with
- The well being or financial position of a member of your family
- The well being or financial position of a person with whom you have a close personal association i.e. relatives, close friends, business associates.
- Any employment carried on by you, a member of your family, a person you live with, relatives, close friends, business associates.
- Any business carried on by you, a member of your family, a person you live with, relatives, close friends, business associates.
- Any person who employs or has appointed you, a member of your family, a person you live with, relatives, close friends, business associates.
- Any firm where a partner is yourself, a member of your family, a person you live with, relatives, close friends, business associates.
- Any company where a director is yourself, a member of your family, a person you live with, relatives, close friends, business associates.
- Any company where shares of over £5000 are owned or held in trust by yourself, a member of your family, a person you live with, relatives, close friends, business associates.
- Any organisation where you, a member of your family, a person you live with, relatives, close friends, business associates hold a position of general control or management i.e.
- Public authority or body exercising functions of a public nature e.g. school governing bodies
- Company / Industrial or provident Society / Charity / Body directed to charitable purposes.
- Body whose principle purpose includes influencing public opinion or policy.
- Trade union or professional association.
- Private club / society or association operating within the Council's area (Including national organisations operating locally)

**TO A GREATER EXTENT** than the majority of the inhabitants of the Ward / Area.

**DISCLOSURE** – Where you have a PERSONAL INTEREST you MUST disclose it at a meeting, in a discussion, in any correspondence etc.

### **QUESTION 2 – Is that Personal Interest ALSO a PREJUDICIAL INTEREST.**

If you do not have a Personal Interest you will not have a Prejudicial Interest.

#### **Single test for Prejudicial Interest:**

Would a reasonable member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts (including knowledge of your personal interest) believe that your interest is so significant that it is LIKELY to harm or impair your ability to take an objective decision.

**NOTES:**

- A councillor should always consider this from the viewpoint of the public not their own by asking the question - “What would a reasonable member of the public think about my taking part in this decision?”
- Councillors should act in the public interest – not in the interests of family, close friends or business associates.
- Local knowledge or connections with the local community are not sufficient to meet the test.
- There must be some factor which might positively harm the councillor’s ability to judge the public interest objectively, even if the councillor decides to take a decision based on the merits of the case.
- Are a large number of people equally affected by the decision or just the councillor and a smaller group of people.

**N.B. - SEE QUESTION 3 – EXEMPTIONS.**

**DISCLOSURE** – Where you have a PREJUDICIAL INTEREST you MUST disclose it AND TAKE NO PART IN THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL i.e. leave the room.

In addition you **MUST NOT**:

- Exercise Board Functions (County Councillors only);
- Seek to influence a decision about that business;
- Make written representations in relation to that business;
- Make oral representations in relation to that business.

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**QUESTION 3 – If I Have a Prejudicial Interest Are there Any EXEMPTIONS Which Apply.**

Is there an Exemption which will allow you to take part in the business of the Council where there is a Prejudicial Interest?

Types of Exemption:

**All.**

- Another relevant body where you are also a member (i.e. another Council)
- Another public body exercising functions of a public nature where you hold a position of control or general management.
- A body to which you have been appointed by your Council.
- Your role as a school governor where not appointed by the Council, UNLESS it relates to the school where you are a governor.
- Role as a Member of the Health Board not appointed by you Council.

**EXCEPT** where the matter relates to a planning application, licensing matter, etc.

County Councillors Only.

- Overview and Scrutiny Committees
- Housing Functions where you hold a tenancy or lease with your Council.
- School Meals or Transport and travelling expenses – where you are a guardian, parent, grandparent or have parental responsibility.
- Statutory Sick Pay
- Allowances or Payments.

Town and Community Councillors Only.

- Grants or Financial Assistance by Town / Community Councils to Community or Voluntary Organisations of which you are a member of up to £500 only (NOT appointed by the Council)