

## STANDARDS COMMITTEE

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Monday, 3 October 2016
<b>Report Subject</b>	Revised Guidance on Code of Conduct
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Governance)

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following changes to the Code the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) has revised his guidance to town/community councillors and to county councillors. Those changes:

- Reflect statutory amendments to the model Code
- Give updated examples to illustrate obligations under the Code.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That the revised guidance be brought to the attention of county councillors and town/community council clerks.
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### REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>REVISED GUIDANCE</b>
1.01	Over the summer the PSOW published revised guidance for both town/community councils (in July) and county councils (in August).
1.02	The principal changes in the latest versions are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction – emphasising personal responsibilities to understand the Code.</li> <li>• Greater clarity on the 2 stage test – did a breach take place? Does it warrant action in the public interest?</li> <li>• Emphasises that reports to Standards Committees or the Adjudication</li> </ul>

	<p>Panel will include an opinion on whether the Code has been breached.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance on when to report suspected breaches following repeal of the obligation to do this under the Code.</li> <li>• Clarifies what members can do when they have a personal and prejudicial interest.</li> <li>• Explanation of the new duty on town/community councils to publish a register of interests.</li> </ul>
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<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	None.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	The PSOW consults, amongst others, the Lawyers in Local Government Group prior to issuing this guidance.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	All councillors must follow the Code of Conduct and by bringing it to their attention the Committee will increase the chances of compliance.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix 1 – Guidance for Town / Community Councillors Appendix 2 – Guidance for County Borough/County/Fire Authorities and national park authorities.

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<b>Contact Officer:</b> Gareth Owens, Chief Officer (Governance) <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 702344 <b>E-mail:</b> gareth.legal@flintshire.gov.uk

<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	None