

This Factsheet is about complaints relating to the conduct or behaviour of Members and co-opted Members of Local Authorities in Wales.

All elected and co-opted Members are bound by a Code of Conduct. Every Local Authority is required to adopt a Code of Conduct for its Members based upon the Model Code of Conduct introduced in 2008. The model Code lays down a set of enforceable minimum standards for the way in which Members should conduct themselves, both in terms of their official capacity and (in some instances) in their personal capacity as well.

The Code includes provisions such as to 'treat others with respect' and to have due regard to the principle that there should be equality for all people.

The Code also has provisions relating to bullying and intimidation, as well as the disclosure of confidential information, and using their position unfairly.

The Code places responsibility on Members to consider whether they have a "personal interest" (i.e. a potential conflict of interest) in a particular matter, such that the existence and nature of the interest should be disclosed. Where such an interest exists, the Code sets out the extent, if at all, to which a member can continue to participate in business connected with the interest.

The Code also provides for the registration of gifts and hospitality.

A copy of the Code for members and co-opted members of Carmarthenshire County Council can be found on our website:

<http://online.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/ccapps/documents/constitution/Part5-1.pdf>

Alternatively, copies can be obtained from the Monitoring Officer or (in the case of a community council), the Clerk to each Authority.

It is the Public Services Ombudsman who has powers to investigate Code of Conduct complaints. If you think that a member has, or may have breached the Code, it is the Ombudsman that you should contact. His details are below.

The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales
1 Ffordd yr Hen Gae
Pencoed
Bridgend
CF35 5LJ
Tel. No. (01656) 641150
E-mail: ask@ombudsman-wales.org
Website: www.ombudsman-wales.org