Agenda Item No: 8

Meeting of:	Standards Committee
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 26 November 2026
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	No Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Urgent Decision Procedure Used **(If yes, why)**	Not Applicable
Item Type	Part I
Report Title:	**Correspondence with the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.**
Portfolio Holder:	Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources
Strategic Leadership Team:	Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Lead Officer:	Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer.

1.0 What is this report about?

1.1 To provide the Committee with a verbal overview of correspondence with the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) and matters arising, with any confidential matters presented in the Part II report later on the same agenda.

2.0 What are the Recommendations?

	Recommendations – What and How?	**Reason for Recommendation – Why?**
2.1	T H A T the Standards Committee considers and notes the Part I content of the report and the correspondence received from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.	To ensure the Committee is informed of relevant correspondence and can fulfil its role in overseeing standards of conduct and the ethical framework within the Council.
2.3	T H A T the Part II report be considered in private session.	To ensure that confidential or sensitive information is handled appropriately in accordance with statutory requirements and the Council's procedures.

3.0 What is the background to this report?

3.1 The PSOW has a statutory role in investigating complaints that Members may have breached the Members' Code of Conduct.

3.2 The Standards Committee has responsibility for promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Members and for overseeing matters relating to complaints considered by the PSOW.

3.3 This report forms part of the Committee's ongoing oversight of correspondence received from the PSOW and ensures Members are kept informed of relevant developments.

3.4 In line with the Committee's Forward Work Programme, it has been agreed that a standing item appear on the Committee's agenda so that Members are apprised of correspondence with the Ombudsman and any matters arising in a timely manner.

4.0 What issues are there to be considered?

4.1 Members are asked to consider the nature of the correspondence received from the PSOW and any outcomes or actions identified.

4.2 The Monitoring Officer will provide a verbal update to the Standards Committee, at the meeting, on the themes, trends, or procedural matters arising from their recent communication with the Ombudsman.

4.3 Where applicable, Members should consider whether there are any implications for Member conduct, training, or awareness.

4.4 Any confidential or sensitive details are contained within the Part II report to ensure compliance with data protection and confidentiality requirements.

5.0 How has evidence been used to inform the report, including the views of others?

5.1 The content of this report has been informed by correspondence received from the PSOW in line with its statutory role in investigating complaints relating to Members' conduct.

5.2 Guidance, procedures, and published principles from the PSOW have been considered to ensure that reporting aligns with established regulatory expectations and good practice.

5.3 The Monitoring Officer has reviewed the correspondence and any associated matters to ensure that information presented to the Committee is accurate, proportionate, and consistent with confidentiality requirements.

5.4 Where relevant, regard has also been given to the Council's Constitution, the Members' Code of Conduct, and the Standards Committee's agreed processes for oversight of

complaints and ethical standards.

6.0 What are the next steps if the recommendations are approved?

6.1 The Standards Committee will note any Part I update provided and take into account any matters arising during consideration of the report and associated Part II item.

6.2 Any actions identified by the Committee (for example, requests for further information, training implications, or procedural review) will be progressed by the Monitoring Officer and Democratic Services.

6.3 Relevant themes or learning points arising from correspondence will be incorporated into future training or guidance for Members where appropriate.

6.4 Ongoing correspondence with the PSOW will continue to be monitored and reported to the Committee as part of its regular work programme.

7.0 How does this report support Vale 2030 and Reshaping?

7.1 This report supports the Council's commitment to strong governance, transparency, and accountability, which underpin the delivery of the Vale 2030 Corporate Plan.

7.2 Ensuring appropriate oversight of complaints and standards matters contributes to maintaining public trust and confidence in the Council's decision-making processes.

7.3 The work of the Standards Committee in monitoring ethical conduct supports a culture of integrity and continuous improvement across the organisation.

8.0 How does this demonstrate the Five Ways of Working?

8.1 Long-Term: Strengthens the Council's governance framework and promotes sustained high standards of conduct, supporting long-term organisational resilience.

8.2 Prevention: Regular oversight of Ombudsman correspondence helps identify emerging issues early, reducing the risk of repeat complaints and promoting proactive improvements.

8.3 Integration: Links ethical governance with wider corporate priorities, ensuring that standards of conduct support all areas of the Council's work.

8.4 Collaboration: Reflects ongoing engagement with the PSOW and internal officers to ensure appropriate handling and understanding of complaints and outcomes.

8.5 Involvement: Supports transparency and accountability, ensuring elected Members are informed and able to engage with standards issues affecting the Council.

Resources

9.0 Finance

9.1 None as a direct result of this report.

10.0 Workforce

10.1 None as a direct result of this report.

11.0 Legal and Equalities

11.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has not been completed because this report relates solely to the Committee's statutory responsibilities and does not propose any changes to policy, service delivery, or operational practices that would give rise to identifiable equality impacts.

12.0 Key Contacts

12.1 Who are the primary officers to contact with any comments and/or queries on the report?

Lead Officer:	Democratic Services Officer:
Victoria Davidson Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services vdavidson@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk	Amy Rudman Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer.07784 239 277 arudman@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Appendix

Not Applicable.

Background Documents

None.