

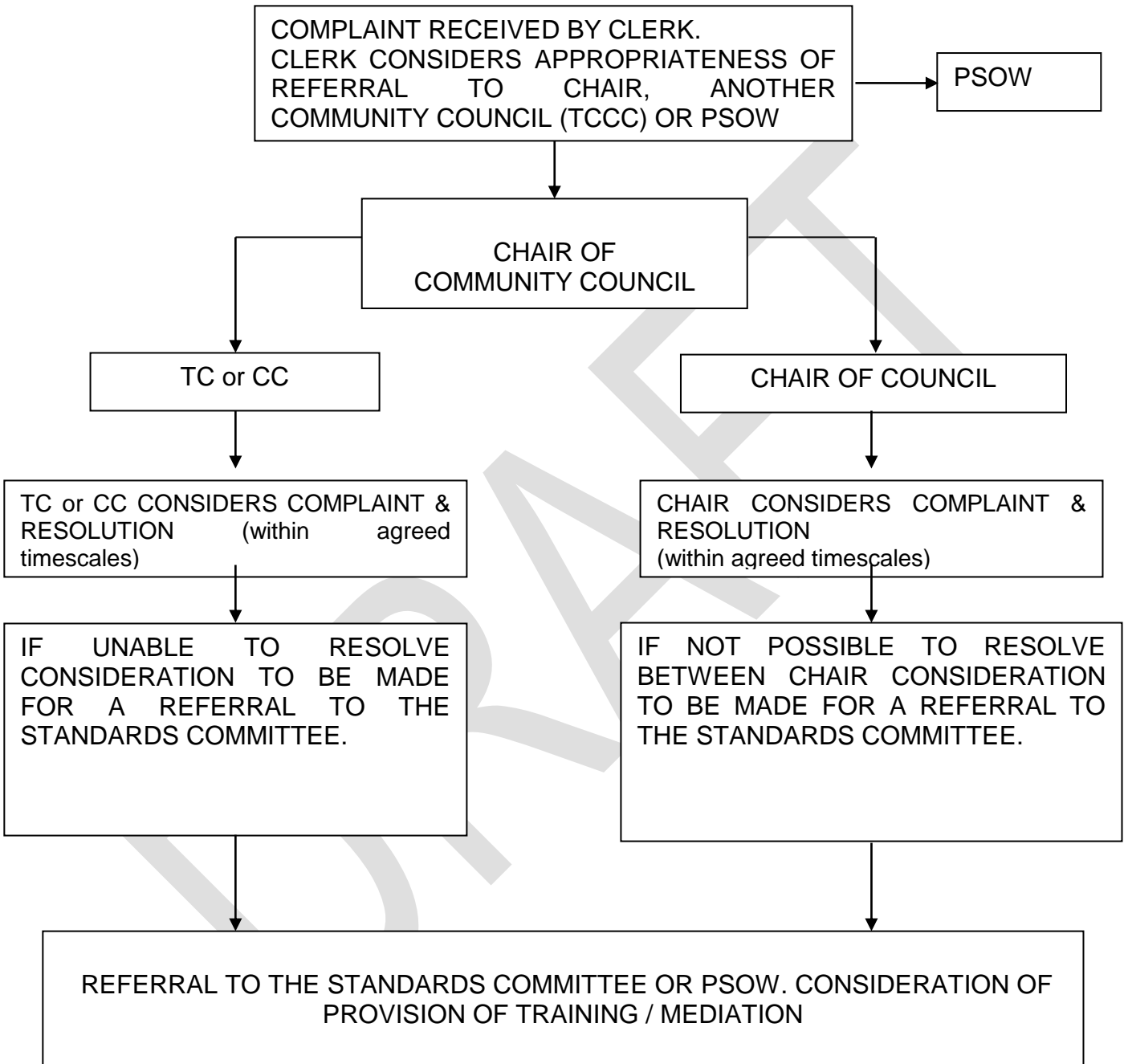
# SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MEMBER 'S SELF REGULATORY PROTOCOL

### General Principles

- To promote high standards of conduct and behaviour as a means of strengthening respect and trust among members. It is NOT intended to replace the Code of Conduct, rather it is intended to sit alongside the Code, enabling behaviour which may not reach the threshold to become a breach to be dealt with; and that which justifies a formal complaint to the Ombudsman to be made in the usual way.
- This protocol is only applicable to low level complaints between members in Town, City and Community Councils; not for complaints by members of the public who should refer their complaint to the PSOW.
- Members will make all reasonable attempts to resolve disputes through agreed internal processes subject to their obligations under the Members' Code of Conduct.
- Referral to external regulators will become a last resort subject to Members' obligations under the Code of Conduct.
- Members will avoid personal confrontation or attacks in any public forum, especially full Council and through the media or social networking.
- These commitments will not stifle legitimate political debate or scrutiny.
- Where the Council has political 'Group Leaders' they shall individually and collectively will work to ensure compliance with this protocol
- Members will commit to training and development in support of this protocol.
- The term 'community council' is used but this shall be taken to mean any town, city or community council.
- Where assistance is sought from another council, due to the nature of the complaint or where a 'peer' view is more appropriate; then the clerk shall make contact with their counterpart at the appropriate council. It is the discretion of the council which community council they make the referral to, similarly the receiving council has a discretion whether to accept the request for assistance.
- Should the process reach a request for input by the Standards Committee, then the Chair (or Vice Chair in their absence) may consider it appropriate for a single Standards Committee Member to attend in the first instance.

**MEMBER / MEMBER COMPLAINTS FLOWCHART**



CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO REFERENCES TO THE OMBUDSMAN FOR PERSISTENT, LOW LEVEL BREACHES.

This policy was approved by Council as its meeting held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017 and will be reviewed at its meeting to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Peter Richmond – 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017