

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Decision Notice – Meeting, 15th July, 2021.

The Committee agenda is available [here](#).

The Meeting recording is available [here](#).

Present: Mr. R. Hendicott (Chairman); Mrs. L. Tinsley (Vice-Chairman); Mrs. P. Hallett and Mr. G. Watkins (Independent Members); Councillor M. Cuddy (Town and Community Council Representative) and Councillors Ms. R.M. Birch, B.T. Gray and A.R. Robertson (Vale of Glamorgan Council).

AGENDA ITEM 1. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE –

This was received from Mr R. Alexander.

AGENDA ITEM 2. MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 27th May, 2021 be approved as a correct record.

AGENDA ITEM 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

AGENDA ITEM 4. APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION (MO/HLDS) –

RESOLVED – T H A T it be noted that no applications had been received.

Reason for decision

Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 5. OBSERVATIONS AT TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS (MO/HLDS) –

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the verbal updates provided at the meeting in respect of observations made by Standards Committee Independent Members be noted.

(2) T H A T the Principal Democratic Services Officer liaises with Independent Members to ensure that any outstanding Town and Community Council observation visits are undertaken by November 2021.

(3) T H A T the intention to continue to undertake observations of Town and Community Council and Vale of Glamorgan Council meetings by Standards Committee Independent Members be noted and a further schedule of visits be drawn up following the Local Government Elections in 2022.

Reason for decisions

(1-3) Having regard to the observations undertaken and the role of the Standards Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 6. PROGRESS UPDATE FOLLOWING THE PRESENTATION OF A REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE (MO/HLDS) –

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the contents of the report, the Appendix and the recommendation of the Community Liaison Committee as referred to in paragraph 2.3 of the report be noted.

(2) T H A T a summary report of the key learning points from the observations undertaken of Town and Community Council meetings, suggested areas for improvement and the introduction of an annual review report and benchmarking opportunities be scheduled to be presented to a future meeting of the Committee following the completion of the outstanding visits to TCC's by November 2021.

Reasons for decisions

(1) Having regard to the contents of the report and the Appendix.

(2) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 7. ETHICAL STANDARDS FRAMEWORK REVIEW (MO/HLDS) –

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the contents of the report be noted.

(2) T H A T a further update report be presented to the Committee following receipt of a report and/or any findings relating to the review.

Reason for decisions

(1&2) To apprise Members of the review of the Ethical Framework in Wales and a recent meeting held with the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Deputy Monitoring Officer and Chair of the Standards Committee with the Independent Consultant.

AGENDA ITEM 8. CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES (MO/HLDS) –

RESOLVED – T H A T the contents of the report be noted, having regard to the fact that an update on the correspondence received from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales and any matters arising under Part II of the report would be considered under Part II of the agenda.

Reason for decision

To apprise Members of the Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 9. MATTER WHICH THE CHAIRMAN HAD DECIDED WAS URGENT –

RESOLVED – T H A T, the following matter, which the Chairman had decided was urgent for the reason given beneath the minute heading be considered.

AGENDA ITEM 9(i). REPORT RELATING TO A COMPLAINT AGAINST COUNCILLOR A IN RESPECT OF B COMMUNITY COUNCIL (MO/HLDS) – **(Urgent by reason of the need to consider in advance of the next Standards Committee)**

RESOLVED – T H A T the report be noted and the recommendations and the report be considered in connection with the Part II report later in the agenda.

Reason for decision

To allow Part I and II reports to be considered together.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC -

RESOLVED - T H A T under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 4 of Schedule 12A (as amended) of the Act, the relevant paragraphs of the Schedule being referred to in brackets after the minute heading.

AGENDA ITEM 10. CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES (MO/HLDS) (EXEMPT INFORMATION – PARAGRAPHS 12, 13 AND 14) –

RESOLVED – T H A T the confidential information provided by the Monitoring Officer at the meeting be noted.

Reason for decision

Having regard to the correspondence received from the Ombudsman, noting that it was confidential at this stage.

AGENDA ITEM 11. MATTER WHICH THE CHAIRMAN HAD DECIDED WAS URGENT –

RESOLVED – T H A T, the following matter, which the Chairman had decided was urgent for the reason given beneath the minute heading be considered.

AGENDA ITEM 11(i). REPORT RELATING TO A COMPLAINT AGAINST COUNCILLOR A IN RESPECT OF B COMMUNITY COUNCIL (MO/HLDS) (EXEMPT INFORMATION – PARAGRAPHS 12, 13 AND 18C) –

(Urgent by reason of the need to consider in advance of the next Standards Committee

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T it be determined that Councillor A be given the opportunity to make representations at a future meeting of the Standards Committee, either orally or in writing in respect of the findings of the investigation and any complaint that he has failed, or may have failed, to comply with Community Council B 's Members' Code of Conduct.

(2) T H A T the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales' investigating officer be requested to attend a future meeting of the Standards Committee in line with Regulations 8 (3A) and 8 (3C) of the Local Government Investigations (Functions of Monitoring Officers and Standards Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2001

(3) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chair of Standards Committee to finalise a draft document setting out the allegations for approval by Standards Committee Members.

(4) T H A T the future meeting of the Standards Committee to consider the matter comprise of 5 Members of the Standards Committee to include 3 Independent Members, a Vale of Glamorgan Councillor and the Town and Community Councillor representative on the Standards Committee.

Reasons for decisions

(1&2) To comply with the provisions of the Local Government Investigations (Functions of Monitoring Officers and Standards Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2001 ("the 2001 Regulations).

(3) In order that Members of the Standards Committee can consider and approve a draft allegations document.

(4) Having regard to the contents of the report.