

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Decision Notice – Meeting, 17th March, 2022.

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

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

Present: R. Hendicott (Chair); L. Tinsley (Vice-Chair); and P. Hallett (Independent Members); Councillor M. Cuddy (Town and Community Council Representative) and Councillors R.M. Birch and B.T. Gray (Vale of Glamorgan Council).

AGENDA ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from R. Alexander, G. Watkins and Councillor A.R. Robertson.

AGENDA ITEM 2. MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 27th January, 2022 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

It being noted that no applications had been received.

AGENDA ITEM 5. OVERVIEW AND LESSONS LEARNED OF OBSERVATIONS BY INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS (MO/HLDS) -

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the report and the feedback received in respect of observation visits undertaken by Independent Members be accepted.

(2) T H A T it be accepted that following the Local Government Elections in May 2022 a new schedule of Vale of Glamorgan Council and Town and Community

Council meetings would be prepared for observations to be undertaken by Independent Standards Committee Members over the next two years.

(3) T H A T it be accepted that at any time during the two years the Monitoring Officer may advise that additional Vale of Glamorgan Council and Town and Community Council's meetings be also observed.

(4) T H A T the report and the verbal update provided at the meeting regarding the observations undertaken by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee, in respect of the Vale of Glamorgan Council Scrutiny meeting held on 10th February 2022, be noted.

(5) T H A T the observations checklist attached as an Appendix to the report be amended to include, at the end of the document, a general comments box and that each question be numbered to aid future analysis.

Reason for decisions

(1-4) Having regard to the observations undertaken, the role of the Standards Committee and following requests by the Monitoring Officer for additional meetings to be observed.

(5) Having regard to discussions at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 6. STANDARDS COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (MO/HLDS) -

RESOLVED – T H A T the Forward Work Programme attached at Appendix 1 to the report be agreed.

Reason for decision

Having considered the contents of the Forward Work Programme.

AGENDA ITEM 7. AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE (MO/HLDS) -

RESOLVED -

(1) T H A T the amendments to the Council's Constitution and the Standards Committee Terms of Reference to be effective from 5th May, 2022, as a result of the provisions of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, be noted.

(2) T H A T a meeting, as outlined in paragraphs 2.3 and 2.4 of the Report, with Richard Hendicott, Lorna Tinsley, the Monitoring Officer and newly appointed Group Leaders, following the Local Government Elections, be scheduled to take place prior to the next meeting of the Standards Committee on 23rd June 2022.

Reason for decisions

(1&2) Having regard to current and pending statutory provisions.

AGENDA ITEM 8. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS (WALES)
ACT 2021: STANDARDS OF CONDUCT STATUTORY GUIDANCE (MO/HLDS) -

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the consultation be noted.

(2) T H A T the Monitoring Officer's response to the consultation, as contained in paragraph 2.2 of the report subject to the response to Question 3 being amended to read the Standards Committee view is that it would have neither an adverse or positive effect, be approved.

(3) T H A T the Welsh Government consultation and the suggested response, subject to the inclusion as referred to in resolution 2 above, be forwarded to the Council's Cabinet for consideration and thereafter to Welsh Government as part of the consultation prior to the submission deadline of 16th May 2022.

Reasons for decisions

(1) For Committee's consideration.

(2&3) To respond to the Welsh Government consultation by 16th May, 2022 and to apprise Cabinet.

AGENDA ITEM 9. STANDARDS CONFERENCE WALES: FEBRUARY
2022 – UPDATE REPORT (MO/HLDS) -

RESOLVED – T H A T the contents of the report and the verbal updates provided at the meeting be noted.

Reason for decision

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

AGENDA ITEM 10. UPDATE FOLLOWING A MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF SULLY AND LAVERNOCK COMMUNITY COUNCIL AND THE MONITORING OFFICER RE AUDIT WALES REPORT INADEQUACIES IN GOVERNANCE AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (MO/HLDS) -

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the outcome of the meeting held with the Chair, Vice-Chair and Clerk of Sully and Lavernock Community Council and the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services as referred to in the report and the verbal update provided by the Monitoring Officer at the meeting, be noted.

(2) T H A T the Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer be requested to liaise with an Independent Member of the Standards Committee to make arrangements for an observation visit of a meeting of Sully and Lavernock Community Council to be undertaken as soon as reasonably practicable.

Reasons for decisions

(1) Having considered the report of the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

(2) In order that an observation visit is undertaken and a report can be made to the Standards Committee in line with the Committees observation process.

AGENDA ITEM 11. 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.

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 item of business on the grounds that it involves 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 13. 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 correspondence received from the Ombudsman, noting that it was confidential at this stage.