

## STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Decision Notice – Remote Meeting, 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2023.

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

The recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

Present: R. Hendicott (Chair); L. Tinsley (Vice-Chair); R. Alexander, P. Hallett and G. Watkins (Independent Members); Councillors R.M. Birch, J.E. Charles and C.P. Franks.

Also present: Councillors M. Hooper and E. Williams (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health).

### AGENDA ITEM 2. MINUTES –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2022 be approved as a correct record.

### AGENDA ITEM 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

Councillor C.P. Franks declared an interest in Agenda Item 4 – Applications for Dispensation – in that Councillor Cowpe was a close personal associate and that he had also previously made an application for dispensation in respect of the same matter. Councillor Franks vacated the meeting when the item was to be considered.

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

RESOLVED – T H A T dispensations as set out in the schedule below be granted up to the date of the next Local Government Elections:

<b>Member Requesting Dispensation</b>	<b>Paragraph(s) of the Standards Committee (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 Under Which Dispensation is Granted and as applied for</b>	<b>Decision</b>
Councillor C.M. Cowpe	(d), (f) and (h)	To <b>speak and vote</b> on general matters relating to Dinas Powys Library and Activity Centre and to <b>speak only</b> when matters

		regarding finance or property are being discussed at both Vale of Glamorgan and Dinas Powys Community Council meetings.
Councillor S.J. Haines	(d) and (f)	<b>To speak and vote on matters (save for matters of finance)</b> in relation to rented allotments at Vale of Glamorgan Council meetings having regard to the application presented.
Councillor S.C. Lloyd-Selby	(d), (f) and (h)	<b>To speak and vote</b> on general matters relating to the Vale foodbank, and to <b>speak only</b> when matters regarding finance or property in respect of the Vale Foodbank, are to be considered at Vale of Glamorgan Council meetings.

### Reasons for decisions

To comply with the regulations and obligations for the grant of dispensations to speak and vote.

### AGENDA ITEM 5. OBSERVATIONS BY INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS (MO / HLDS) –

#### RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the report and the verbal feedback provided by Independent Members of the Standards Committee in respect of observations undertaken of Town and Community Council meetings since the last meeting of the Committee be noted.

(2) T H A T having regard to resolution 2 above feedback be provided to the Clerks and Chairs of the respective Town and Community Councils by the Monitoring Officer and / or Principal Democratic Scrutiny Services Officer.

(3) T H A T any remaining outstanding visits of TCC's be allocated to the five Independent Members in due course.

### Reason for decisions

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

AGENDA ITEM 6. UPDATE ON NATIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE FORUM (MO / HLDS) –

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the report, together with the Terms of Reference of the National Standards Committee Forum as outlined at Appendix 2 to the report, be noted.

(2) T H A T the Committee's view that the harmonisation of the threshold for declaring gifts / hospitality be in accordance with other Local Authorities in Wales, currently recommended to be £25 be agreed, and the view conveyed to the National Standards Committee Forum at its meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

Reasons for decisions

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

(2) In order that the views of the Committee can be considered at the National Standards Committee Forum on 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 with further feedback to be presented to the Cabinet and Full Council of the Vale of Glamorgan Council in due course.

AGENDA ITEM 7. APPOINTMENT OF A STANDARDS COMMITTEE PANEL (MO / HLDS) –

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T a Panel of Independent Members of the Standards Committee to consider conducting a review having regard to paragraph 1.1 of the report be approved.

(2) T H A T the Panel to consist of three Independent Members of the Standards Committee namely the Chair of the Standards Committee, Mr. R. Hendicott, the Vice-Chair of the Standards Committee, Mrs. L. Tinsley and Mr. R. Alexander be approved.

(3) T H A T the Panel as outlined in resolutions 1 and 2 above, be convened over the forthcoming weeks to consider the Terms of Reference for such a review and that the Terms of Reference be reported to the next meeting of the Standards Committee for approval.

Reasons for decisions

(1&2) Having considered the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

(3) In order that the Terms of Reference of the Panel can be considered and agreed by the Standards Committee.

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.

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