



MERTHYR TYDFIL  
County Borough Council  
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
MERTHYR TUDFUL

## MINUTES OF MEETING

# STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, 4TH SEPTEMBER, 2015

**PRESENT:** J Morgan (In the Chair)

**Councillors:**

H Barrett and C Jones

**Independent Members:**

I Cathrew, N Fear, D McCarthy and P Young

**Community Council Representative:**

H Thomas

**Officers:**

C Kennedy and K Vokes

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
315	Election of Chair	Nominations for Chair were sought from Independent Members of the Committee.  <b>RESOLVED that:</b>  Mr Jeff Morgan be appointed as Chair.
316	Election of Vice Chair	Nominations for Vice Chair were sought from Independent Members of the Committee.  <b>RESOLVED that:</b>  Mr Ian Cathrew be appointed as Vice Chair.

## Mr Jeff Morgan took the Chair

317	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence received from Councillor Paul Brown.
318	Declarations of Interest	No declarations of interest were made.
319	Agreement of Work Programme for 2015/2016	<p>Carys Kennedy advised members of the need to formalise arrangements for the Standards Committee to maximise its opportunities to monitor the performance of the Authority.</p> <p>It was therefore recommended that the following matters be included in a timetabled work programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales' Annual Report</li><li>• Complaints and Compliments System dealing with complaints about all aspects of the Authority's work.</li><li>• Council's Whistleblowing Policy</li></ul> <p>Carys Kennedy advised that members receive three reports on an annual basis. Each of these reports be provided to a separate meeting, spaced throughout the calendar year, which will mean that there will be a minimum of three meetings annually. Ad hoc meetings will however need to take place as and when required.</p> <p>Nathan Fear queried whether these reports could contain comparative data over 2 years.</p> <p>Discussion ensued and it was <b>RESOLVED</b> that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The next meeting of Standards will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 2.00 pm to discuss the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Annual Report and also to receive feedback from the Standards Conference.</li><li>• Members agree a meeting for the end of March 2016 to discuss the consider Complaints and Compliments system.</li><li>• Members agree a meeting for the end of July 2016 to discuss the Council's Whistleblowing Policy.</li></ul>
320	Standards and Ethics Conference Wales 2015	<p>Carys Kennedy advised members about the Standards and Ethics Conferences in Cardiff City Hall on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2015 and outlined that this year there are not restrictions on the number of members from each Authority and would therefore offer all Members the opportunity to attend.</p> <p>Councillor Clive Jones advised that he would be unable to attend as he has to attend another meeting.</p>

		<p><b>RESOLVED that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following members will attend the conference and that Karen Vokes will make the necessary arrangements:</li> </ul> <p>Councillor Howard Barrett  Jeff Morgan  Ian Cathrew  Nathan Fear  David McCarthy  Peter Young  Helen Thomas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Karen Vokes to contact Councillor Paul Brown to confirm whether he will be able to attend the Conference.</li> </ul>
321	Any other item deemed urgent by the Chair	There was no business deemed urgent by the Chair.