



MERTHYR TYDFIL  
County Borough Council  
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
MERTHYR TUDFUL

# **STANDARDS COMMITTEE** **MEETING**

**2.00 PM FRIDAY, 4TH SEPTEMBER, 2015**

**CONFERENCE ROOM 2**

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Any reference documents referred to but not published as part of this agenda can be found on the Council's website or intranet under Background Papers.

## **A G E N D A**

1. Election of Chair
2. Election of Vice Chair
3. Apologies for absence
4. Declarations of Interest

Members of the Standards Committee are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and prejudicial interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Members Code of Conduct.

**Note:**

- a. Members are reminded that they must identify the item number and subject matter that their interest relates to and signify the nature of the personal interest; and

b. Where Members withdraw from a meeting as a consequence of the disclosure of a prejudicial interest they must notify the Chair when they leave.

5. Agreement of Work Programme for 2015/2016  
To consider a report of the Monitoring Officer. **(Pages 1 - 2)**
6. Standards and Ethics Conference Wales 2015  
To consider a report of the Monitoring Officer. **(Pages 3 - 4)**
7. Any other item deemed urgent by the Chair

**COMPOSITION:**

Councillors: H Barrett, S P Brown and C T Jones

Independent Members: I Cathrew, N Fear, D McCarthy,  
J Morgan, Peter Young and H Thomas

together with appropriate officers

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## **STANDARDS REPORT**

Date Written	24 <sup>th</sup> August 2015
Report Author	Carys Kennedy
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	4 <sup>th</sup> September 2015

*To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen*

## **Work Programme for 2015-2016**

### **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:**

To allow members to agree a work programme for the Standards Committee for 2015-2016

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Members will note that historically the Standards Committee has met when it has been called upon to do so as a result of issues that have arisen but has not had a planned programme of work or of meetings.
- 1.2 In order to formalise arrangements and to ensure that the committee maximises its opportunities to monitor the performance and governance of the Authority, it is proposed that a number of matters are included in a timetabled work programme. Ad hoc meetings can still take place where required or else matters that arise can be included into the agreed programme of meetings as and when they occur.
- 1.3 It is proposed that members receive three reports on an annual basis to consider the performance of the Authority and how it is responding to concerns raised by the public.
- 1.4 The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales publishes an annual report each summer highlighting issues that have been raised with him and detailing trends in complaints and concerns about the conduct of elected members across Wales. It is proposed that this Committee receives a report summarising those issues and

considering where Merthyr Tydfil's performance ranks alongside other committees in Wales.

- 1.5 The Local Authority has a complaints and compliments system dealing with complaints about all aspects of the Authority's work. It is proposed that an annual report comes to this committee summarising the number and types of complaints that have been received each year and whether or not they have been upheld. This again will enable the committee to consider whether there are any trends being identified that should be highlighted to the Council as a whole.
- 1.6 Finally the Council's monitoring Officer is required to administer the Council's whistleblowing policy, and in these times of austerity and drastic changes in the way that the Council functions it is important to ensure that consideration is given to those complaints and whether or not they disclose any problems in the way that the Council is doing business. It is therefore proposed that an annual report is brought to this committee summarising the number of complaints received in that year and their nature, together with some information as to the outcome of the complaint.
- 1.7 Each of these reports could be provided to a separate meeting, spaced throughout the calendar year, which will mean that there will be a minimum of three meetings annually.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S) that:**

- 2.1 Committee consider the report and agree a work programme for the year

**CARYS KENNEDY  
MONITORING OFFICER**

<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>		
<b>Title of Document(s)</b>	<b>Document(s) Date</b>	<b>Document Location</b>

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*To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen*

## **Standards and Ethics Conference Wales 2015**

### **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:**

To advise members about the Standards and Ethics Conference on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2015

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 A conference is held every year on an all Wales basis to provide committee members with an opportunity to get together and share information and experiences. It is an opportunity to see how other Committees are functioning and to hear about good practice.
- 1.2 The conference alternates between North and South Wales and this year is taking place in Cardiff at the City Hall on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2015. The conference will take the whole day.
- 1.3 Guest speakers at the event will include the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales who will speak about the work that he has carried out over the last year, and the Chair of the adjudication panel for Wales who will provide an overview of cases that have come before the tribunal. There will also be work shops which provide a valuable training opportunity in company with members of other Standards committees.
- 1.4 Sometimes there are restrictions on the number of members from each panel who can attend but so far we have not been advised of any such restrictions for this year and so the offer to attend is open to all members.

1.5 Members will be provided with a report after the conference has taken place outlining the main themes of the day and any learning that we may need to take forward.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S) that**

2.1 Members are asked to note the date and time of the conference.

2.2 Members are asked to confirm whether they wish to attend.

**CARYS KENNEDY  
MONITORING OFFICER**

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