



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

STANDARDS MEETING

FRIDAY, 20TH JULY, 2018

PRESENT: J Morgan (In the Chair)
I Cathrew (Vice Chair)

Councillors:
J Amos and G Richards

Independent Members:
D McCarthy and A L Morgan

Community Council Representative:
H Thomas

Officers:
C Kennedy (Head of Legal and Governance Services -
Monitoring Officer)

K Vokes (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
183	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Clive Tovey and Nathan Fear (Independent Member).
184	Declarations of Interest	No declarations of interest were made.
185	Analysis of Data in respect of Complaints received by the Authority	Carys Kennedy referred to the complaints data presented to the Standards Committee on the 16 th March 2018 where it was agreed that a report be brought back to today's meeting giving a more detailed breakdown of the corporate areas where complaints had been received. Carys then referred to the data outlined in the report which sets out the total number of corporate complaints for the

		<p>2017/18 financial year, the outcomes of these complaints and a breakdown of the complaints into service areas.</p> <p>Detailed discussion ensued in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The different stages of the complaints process. • Referrals to the Ombudsman. • Current position of complaints within the service areas. • How the complaints are being dealt with by departments. <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The timetabled Work Programme be amended to include consideration of the complaints data in July each year. • Any future complaints data be broken down into service areas, as outlined in 4.1 of the report. • The 2018/19 complaints data be considered at the July 2019 Standards Committee which will also include the 2017/18 data so that members can see a year on year comparison.
186	Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members: Request for Dispensation - Councillor Kevin O'Neill	<p>A detailed discussion ensued in relation to Councillor O'Neill's dispensation request and the ongoing updates to the Governance Scrutiny Committee on the current position of the Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Trust.</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>Councillor Kevin O'Neill's dispensation request be deferred until such time as the Scrutiny Committee has completed its process so that the application can be considered by the Standards Committee.</p>
187	Joint Training Event with RCT's Standard Committee Members - 23rd July 2018	<p>The Chair reminded members of the Joint Training event at Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC next Monday, 23rd July 2018, and advised that the training will take the form of a "Mock Hearing".</p> <p>The Chair, Mike McCarthy, Helen Thomas and Councillor Gareth Richards confirmed that they will be attending.</p> <p>The Chair advised that Mel Jehu, Chair of the Standards Committee at RCT, had extended an invitation to Merthyr Tydfil members of the Standards Committee to any events that are being held at RCT.</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair will give feedback on the training to the next meeting.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen Vokes to enquire with RCT on the training material used in order that copies can be sent to those members unable to attend.
188	Update on Standards Conference scheduled for the 14th September 2018	<p>Carys Kennedy advised that the Chair, Anne Morgan and herself had been booked onto the Standards Conference in Aberystwyth for Friday, 14th September 2018 and that Karen Vokes will forward details on when they become available.</p> <p>Following a discussion, Carys Kennedy advised that if Councillor Gareth Richards wishes to attend the Conference that he could take her place.</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Gareth Richards contact Carys Kennedy and Karen Vokes to confirm whether he wishes to attend the Standards Conference in Carys' place. • Carys Kennedy to liaise with the Monitoring Officer Group to enquire whether feedback notes are available following the scheduled workshops at the Standards Conference.
189	Date of Next Meeting	It was agreed that the date of the next meeting will be Friday, 23 rd November 2018 at 2.00 pm in Conference Room 2 at the Civic Centre.
190	Any other item deemed urgent by the Chair	<p>Carys Kennedy brought to members' attention that she had received an e-mail from Nathan Fear advising that, due to other commitments, he will have to resign from the Standards Committee.</p> <p>Detailed discussion ensued in relation to this Independent Member vacancy and how this vacancy could be advertised.</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the request of the Chair, a letter be sent to Nathan Fear thanking him for all his efforts and contributions to this Committee. • Karen Vokes liaise with Corporate Communications on how they can assist in publicising the recruitment of the Independent Member vacancy.