



## MINUTES OF MEETING

# STANDARDS MEETING

FRIDAY, 5TH APRIL, 2019

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

**Councillors:**  
J Amos, G Richards and C Tovey

**Independent Members:**  
D McCarthy, A L Morgan and M Veale

**Community Council Representative:**  
H Thomas

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

K Reddy (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
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The Chair welcomed Martin Veale, our newly appointed Independent Member, to his first meeting of the Standards Committee.

967	Apologies for absence	No apologies for absence as all members were present.
968	Declarations of Interest	No declarations of interest were made.
969	Ombudsman's Annual Letter	Carys Kennedy referred to the Ombudsman Annual Letter for 2017/18 which provides a summary of the work of the Ombudsman and details of the data in respect of referrals made to that service. Discussion ensued on the number of matters that were resolved in that year together with the levels with those in neighbouring Authorities.

		<p><b>RESOLVED that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members note the information contained within the Ombudsman's Annual Letter.</li> <li>• A report be scheduled for Council on the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019 to report on the outcomes in the Ombudsman's Letter.</li> <li>• Copy of the Ombudsman's Annual Letter be sent to members for their information.</li> </ul>
970	Update on matters reported to the Ombudsman	<p>Carys Kennedy advised members in relation to the number of matters reported to the Ombudsman. She made members aware that she is unable to give any specific details on each of these matters unless the Ombudsman refers the matter back to the Standards Committee for investigation.</p> <p>Discussion then ensued on the procedure of how a complaint is dealt with by the Ombudsman and the involvement of the Standards Committee if any matter is referred back to the Committee for investigation, e.g. number of members on the investigation panel, sanctions that the Standards Committee can impose, timescales on the Standards Committee completing an investigation.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carys Kennedy to keep members up to date as required.</li> <li>• Karen Reddy to forward the Sanctions Guidance from the Adjudication Panel for Wales to Martin Veale, which was noted by the Standards Committee on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018.</li> </ul>
971	Independent Members - Term of Office	<p>Carys Kennedy advised the Committee that Independent Members are appointed for a period of 4 years or no more than 6 years and may not be re-appointed. Discussion also ensued in relation to Helen Thomas' term of office as a Bedlinog Community Council Representative.</p> <p>As Jeff Morgan, Mike McCarthy and Ian Cathrew's term of office will be 4 years in September she asked the members whether they would consider extending their term of office for an additional 2 years.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jeff Morgan, Mike McCarthy and Ian Cathrew to contact Karen Reddy to confirm whether they wish to extend their term of office for an additional 2 years.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enquiries be made with the Bedlinog Community Council on Helen Thomas' term of office.</li> </ul>
972	Update on the Whistleblowing Policy	<p>Carys Kennedy advised that there was no update to give to the Committee as no further Whistleblowing complaints have been received.</p> <p>Discussion ensued in relation to the current Whistleblowing Policy as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publicity exercise be carried out to remind staff of the provisions in place with the current Whistleblowing Policy.</li> <li>• Statutory protection in place on any complaints received.</li> <li>• Could consideration be given to changing the name of the Policy.</li> <li>• Union involvement.</li> </ul> <p><b>RESOLVED that:</b></p> <p>Carys Kennedy report back to the next appropriate Committee on any further awareness being publicised across the Authority.</p>
973	Date of next meeting	It was agreed that the date of the next meeting will be Friday, 5 <sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 2.00 pm.
974	Any other item deemed urgent by the Chair	<p>The Chair asked Members whether they would consider the preparation of an Annual Report on the Standards Committee work which could be scheduled for a Full Council meeting for members' information.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Annual Report be prepared and sent to Full Council for Members' information.</li> <li>• A draft Annual Report, for committee's consideration, be scheduled for the next appropriate Standards Committee.</li> </ul>