



MINUTES OF MEETING

STANDARDS MEETING

FRIDAY, 16TH JULY, 2021

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

Councillors:
J Amos and G Richards

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

Community Council Representative:
(none)

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

K Reddy (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
182	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence received from Councillor Clive Tovey and Richard Searle, Bedlinog Community Council Representative.
183	Declarations of Interest	No declarations of interest were made.
184	Analysis of Data in respect of Corporate Complaints received by the Authority for the financial years 2019/20 and 2020/21	The Chair referred to the report on the Analysis of Data in respect of Corporate Complaints received by the Authority. Carys Kennedy referred to the Work Programme which was previously agreed by the Committee to include a consideration of data in respect of complaints made against the Authority on an annual basis.

		<p>She advised that this information was set out so that Members can have sight of the complaints information and identify any trends and particular areas of concern. She advised that this report identifies comparative data over 2 years with future reports showing additional years.</p> <p>Discussions ensued on the detail of the report and Members requested clarification on the categories outlining the detail of the Corporate Complaints outcomes for 2019/20 and 2020/21.</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The next report scheduled for July 2022 will have comparative data for 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22. - The report scheduled for July 2022 to include an explanation of the terms outlined in the summary of Corporate Complaints outcomes.
185	Overview Report of the Standards Committee 2019 - 2021	<p>The Chair referred to the draft document providing an overview of the Standards Committee for the period 2019 to 2021 and discussion ensued on the detail contained in the document.</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen Reddy would make the necessary amendments as agreed by the Members. • This document be scheduled for Full Council for Councillors' information. • Future annual reports on the work carried out by the Standards Committee be produced in July each year.
186	Members' Term of Office	<p>Carys Kennedy made the Committee aware that three members of the Standards Committee, namely Jeffrey Morgan, Ian Cathrew and Mike McCarthy are due to leave the Committee as they have come to the end of their term of office.</p> <p>She advised that due to the Pandemic, Council meetings were postponed for a period of time in 2020 and the Members of the Standards Committee were unable to meet. Carys Kennedy therefore confirmed that she was able to extend their term of office with the Standards Committee until January 2022 or the first meeting of 2022.</p>
187	Next Steps for Recruitment of Independent Members	<p>Carys Kennedy advised that consideration will need to be given on the process of recruiting new Members as soon as possible so that they will hopefully be in place prior to the three current Members officially leaving the Committee.</p>

		<p>Following a decision with Members, it was RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carys Kennedy advise the Committee on a proposed process of recruiting new Members at the next meeting of the Standards Committee in November 2021. - At that meeting Members agree a process of interviews to be held following the November meeting. - New Members be appointed as soon as possible in order that they can in post prior to the three current Members leaving early in 2022. - Election of Chair and Vice Chair will be considered at the first meeting of the new Members.
188	Training	<p>Discussion ensued in relation to future training opportunities for Members in particular shared training with neighbouring Local Authorities.</p> <p>In addition, Carys advised that training for Elected Members will be arranged on the Members' Code of Conduct which will also be offered to the Standards Committee Members.</p> <p>Following discussion, it was RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enquiries be made with neighbouring Authorities on any planned training or Hearings scheduled. - Arrangements be made on Members attending the Annual Standards Conference. Carys Kennedy to confirm when details are available. - Members will be advised of the Members' Code of Conduct Training when confirmed.
189	Whistleblowing Complaints	<p>Carys Kennedy advised that there have been no whistleblowing complaints received and that a report on an update will be scheduled for March 2022.</p> <p>She confirmed that following the request at a previous Standards Committee to raise awareness of the Whistleblowing Policy, an e-mail was sent out to all staff by the Chief Executive reminding them of the purpose of the Whistleblowing Policy, which also provided links on the process and how staff can make a complaint.</p> <p>Discussion also took place on whether communication with staff should be made on a regular basis to remind them of the process of whistleblowing.</p>
190	Date of next meeting / Future Meetings to be held	<p>It was agreed that the date of the next meeting will be Friday, 5th November 2021 at 2.00 pm to be held remotely via Microsoft Teams.</p>

		Consideration be given closer to the date and will advise Members accordingly if arrangements will change on whether the Committee will meet in person.
191	Any other item deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.