

STANDARDS REPORT

Date Written	24 th August 2015
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Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	4 th 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

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location