



MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL

MINUTES OF MEETING

STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, 18TH MARCH, 2016

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

Councillors:
S P Brown and C T Jones

Independent Members:
N Fear, D McCarthy and P Young

Community Council Member:
H Thomas

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

K Vokes, Democratic Services Officer

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
1182	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence received from Councillor Howard Barrett.
1183	Declarations of Interest	Ian Cathrew declared an interest in item 5 (Request for Dispensation – Councillor Clive Jones - Cwm Taf University Health Board) as he is an employee of the Health Board.

		<p>Councillor Clive Jones declared an interest in item 4 (Request for Dispensation - Merthyr Town Football Club) as the request for dispensation is for himself.</p> <p>Councillor Clive Jones declared an interest in item 5 (Request for Dispensation – Cwm Taf University Health Board) as the request for dispensation is for himself.</p>
1184	<p>Analysis of Data in respect of Complaints received by the Authority</p>	<p>Carys Kennedy referred to the attached report, which was requested at a previous Standards Committee. She brought to members' attention that the Authority's complaints process had recently changed and she was unable to provide comparative data over 2 years as requested.</p> <p>She advised that this report will be for information purposes on this occasion until another year's data is available to identify trends in certain areas.</p> <p>In relation to paragraph 4.2 (broad breakdown of areas), discussion ensued to this breakdown being set out in more detail to clearly identify which service areas they are referring to.</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An information report be scheduled for Cabinet and Council. • Carys Kennedy to enquire whether the Complaints Department are able to provide a further breakdown of the service areas.
1185	<p>Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members: Request for Dispensation - Councillor Clive Jones (Merthyr Town Football Club)</p>	<p>Having declared an interest, Councillor Clive Jones left the meeting whilst this item was discussed.</p> <p>Discussion ensued in relation to this application. Carys Kennedy advised that Councillor Clive Jones had previously been granted a dispensation in relation to Merthyr Tydfil Football Club, but was seeking a similar dispensation as the Football Club has now been re-constituted and renamed as Merthyr Town Football Club.</p> <p>Following debate this Committee RESOLVED that:</p> <p>A dispensation be granted to Councillor Clive Jones to speak and vote on any matters relating to the Merthyr Town Football Club except where any financial/funding matters are being discussed.</p>
1186	<p>Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members: Request for Dispensation - Councillor Clive Jones (Cwm Taf University Health Board)</p>	<p>Having declared an interest, Ian Cathrew and Councillor Clive Jones left the meeting whilst this item was discussed.</p> <p>Discussion ensued in relation to this application. Carys Kennedy advised that Councillor Clive Jones had previously been granted a dispensation in relation to the Health Board, but was seeking a similar dispensation as the Health Board has now been re-constituted and renamed as Cwm Taf University Health Board.</p>

		<p>Following debate this Committee RESOLVED that:</p> <p>A dispensation be granted to Councillor Clive Jones to speak and vote on any matters relating to the Cwm Taf University Health Board except where any financial/funding matters are being discussed.</p>
1187	Training and Development:	<p>Ian Cathrew and Councillor Clive Jones returned to the meeting.</p> <p><u>Viewing clips of recorded Council Meetings</u></p> <p>Carys Kennedy advised that members will view these recordings in the Council Chamber following this meeting.</p> <p><u>Local Dispute Resolution Procedures</u></p> <p>Discussion ensued in relation to the agreed Local Dispute Resolution Procedures, which was previously circulated to Members, and it was RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The contents be noted by the Standards Committee. • The Chief Executive be invited to the Standards Committee in July to meet the new members of the Committee • Standards members be invited to any induction training arranged for Councillors on the Local Dispute Resolution Procedure. <p><u>Joint Training for Standards Members of Merthyr Tydfil and RCT</u></p> <p>Carys Kennedy advised that no training has been arranged to date but will consider joint training with Merthyr Tydfil and RCT Standards Members if training is required.</p> <p><u>Programme of attendance at Council meetings</u></p> <p>Discussion ensued in relation to the attendance of independent members at Council meetings. Carys Kennedy advised that Council/Committees are public meetings, and members are welcome to attend as observers within the public gallery.</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen Vokes forward a schedule of Full Council meetings to members. • Members of the Committee to attend Full Council meetings if they so wish but will not be remunerated for their attendance.

		<p><u>Standards Committee Members attending meetings at neighbouring Authorities</u></p> <p>Carys Kennedy advised the Committee that she has been in contact with neighbouring Authorities in relation to our members attending their Standards Committees.</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen Vokes to e-mail details received of Standards Committees in other Authorities. • Members to advise Karen Vokes of the Standards Committee they wish to attend. • Members will be remunerated a ½ day payment to attend one of these meetings.
1188	Any other item deemed urgent by the Chair	<p><u>Attendance of Councillors on Outside Bodies</u></p> <p>The Chair queried whether the Committee should be monitoring attendance of Councillors on Outside Bodies to which they been appointed by the Local Authority.</p> <p>Detailed discussion ensued in relation to how this could be progressed.</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>Carys Kennedy would enquire how this could be progressed and report back to Members.</p> <p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>The next meeting has been scheduled for Friday, 15th July 2016 at 2.00 pm, and it was confirmed at the November 2015 meeting that the Whistleblowing Policy will be discussed.</p>