

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Decision Notice – Remote Meeting, 24th November, 2022.

The Committee agenda is available [here](#).

The recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

Present: R. Hendicott (Chair); L. Tinsley (Vice-Chair); R. Alexander, P. Hallett and G. Watkins (Independent Members); Councillors R.M. Birch, and C.P. Franks.

AGENDA ITEM 1. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE –

This was received from Councillor J.E Charles.

AGENDA ITEM 2. MINUTES –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 6th October, 2022 be approved as a correct record, it being noted that Members had commented at the last meeting that they expected applications for dispensation to be received in a timely manner.

AGENDA ITEM 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

Councillor C.P Franks declared an interest in agenda item 4 having regard to Councillor Buckley’s application regarding Ysgol Y Deri he advised that he would be submitting a similar application and vacated the room when this application was considered.

AGENDA ITEM 4. APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION (MO/HLDS) –

RESOLVED – T H A T dispensations as set out in the schedule below be granted up to the date of the next Local Government Elections:

Member Requesting Dispensation	Paragraph(s) of the Standards Committee (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 Under Which Dispensation is Granted and as applied for	Decision
Councillor I. Buckley	(d)	Dispensation granted to speak and vote on any

		matter relating to the South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority at Vale of Glamorgan Council and Penarth Town Council meetings in view of family members being employed by the Fire Authority.
Councillor I. Buckley	(d), (f) and (g)	Dispensation granted to speak and vote on topics connected with the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Reshaping Programme when being discussed at both Vale of Glamorgan and Penarth Town Council meetings as appropriate.
Councillor I. Buckley	(d)	Dispensation granted to speak and vote on matters relating to Ysgol y Deri as his daughter was employed there.

Reason for decision

To comply with the regulations and obligations for the grant of dispensations to speak and vote.

AGENDA ITEM 5. PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN 2023- 2026 (MO/HLDS) –

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the Committee's comments on the draft Strategic Plan as below, be forwarded by the Monitoring Officer to the Public Services Ombudsman:

- reference to be made in the Strategic Plan to the timeliness of dealing with complaints;
- and
- in view of the likelihood that caseloads may increase, consideration to be referenced in the Plan to the implications for resources for both the Ombudsman's Office and Local Authorities.

(2) T H A T the response outlined in Resolution (1) above be approved by the Chair, prior to despatch and the letter be presented to the next meeting of the Standards Committee for information.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) Having regard to the contents of the report and to advise the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales of the Committee's comments.
- (2) To seek the Chair's approval prior to despatch of the letter and to inform the Committee accordingly.

AGENDA ITEM 6. LETTER FROM PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES RE CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS GUIDANCE AND PROCESS (MO/HLDS) –

RESOLVED – T H A T the contents of the report and the letter attached as an Appendix to the report, be noted and that the same be forwarded to all Vale of Glamorgan Councillors and Clerks to Town and Community Councils for information.

Reason for decision

Having regard to the contents of the reports and discussions at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 7. OBSERVATIONS BY INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS (MO/HLDS) –

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the report and feedback received at the meeting in respect of observation visits undertaken by Independent Members of the Standards Committee be noted.
- (2) T H A T the observations of the Independent Members be shared with the relevant Town and Community Councils.

Reason for decisions

(1&2) Having regard to the observations undertaken and the role of the Standards Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 8. CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES (MO/HLDS) –

RESOLVED – T H A T the contents of the report be noted having regard to the fact that an update on the correspondence received from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales and any matters arising under Part II of the report would be considered under Part II of the agenda.

Reason for decision

To apprise Members of the Committee.

MATTER WHICH THE CHAIR HAD DECIDED WAS URGENT –

RESOLVED – T H A T the following matter which the Chair had decided was urgent for the reason given beneath the minute heading be considered.

AGENDA ITEM 9. UPDATE ON NATIONAL FORUM –

Matter which the Chair had decided was urgent in order to apprise Committee of the progress relating to the establishment of the National Standards Forum with the first meeting to be held on 8th December, 2022.

RESOLVED – T H A T the update report be noted.

Reason for decision

To apprise Members of the Committee

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC –

RESOLVED – T H A T under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 4 of Schedule 12A (as amended) of the Act, the relevant paragraphs of the Schedule being referred to in brackets after the minute heading.

AGENDA ITEM 10. CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES (MO/HLDS) (EXEMPT INFORMATION – PARAGRAPHS 12, 13 AND 14) –

RESOLVED – T H A T the confidential information provided by the Monitoring Officer at the meeting be noted.

Reason for decision

Having regard to correspondence received from the Ombudsman, noting that it was confidential at this stage.