

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Decision Notice – Remote Meeting, 28th September, 2023.

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

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

Present: R. Hendicott (Chair), L. Tinsley (Vice-Chair), P. Hallett and G. Watkins (Independent Members); Councillor P. Summers (Town and Community Council Representative); Councillors R.M. Birch, J.E. Charles and C.P. Franks.

Also present: Councillors L. Burnett (Labour Group Leader), G.D.D. Carroll (Conservative Group Leader), M.J. Hooper, G. John (Llantwit First Independent Group Leader) and Dr. I.J. Johnson (Plaid Cymru Group Leader).

AGENDA ITEM 1. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE –

This was received from R. Alexander (Independent Member).

AGENDA ITEM 2. MINUTES –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 13th July, 2023 be approved as a correct record, subject to it being noted that the penultimate paragraph of Minute No. 198 be amended to read “..... had been agreed by the Standards Committee on 8th June 2023, **approved by Cabinet on 22nd June 2023** with”.

AGENDA ITEM 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

AGENDA ITEM 4. STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING WITH GROUP LEADERS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE STATUTORY AND NON -STATUTORY GUIDANCE FOR PRINCIPAL COUNCILS IN WALES – SUPPORTING PROVISIONS WITHIN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000, THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) MEASURE 2011 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS (WALES) ACT 2021 ISSUED JUNE 2023 (MO / HLS) –

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the provisions as set out in paragraphs 2.6 to 2.10 of the report be noted.
- (2) T H A T the Group Leader amended proforma attached at Appendix B to the report be agreed.

(3) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chair of the Standards Committee to prepare a document, to be shared with Standards Committee Members and Group Leaders, having regard to paragraph 2.6 of the report, discussions at the meeting and the threshold which the Standards Committee would use to establish whether it was content that political group leaders had complied with the duties of the 2021 Act.

Reasons for decisions

(1) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

(2&3) Having regard to the amendments reflected in the WG Statutory and Non-Statutory Guidance published in June 2023 and the discussions at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 5. APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION (MO / HLS) –

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

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 D. Breen	(d), and (f)	To speak only at meetings of Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council when matters relating to the Cowbridge Museum (which is located within Cowbridge Town Hall) are discussed, in view of being a Trustee of the museum and Chair of Cowbridge with Llanblethian's Town Hall Committee.
Councillor B. Morris	(e) and (i)	To speak only, when matters relating to planning consent for extensions to the Heol Cae Pwll Estate are discussed at meetings of Colwinston Community Council having

		regard to the fact that the Councillor lives on the estate where permission to build an extension may be sought.
Councillor M. Hooper	(c), (d), (f) and (i)	To speak and vote on broad matters relating to the Welsh Government's Climate Change portfolio (save for matters regarding Ynni Cymru or Unnos) when they are to be discussed at Vale of Glamorgan Council meetings.

Reason for decisions

To comply with the regulations and obligations for the grant of dispensations to speak and vote and having regard to the applications submitted.

AGENDA ITEM 6. OBSERVATIONS BY INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS (MO / HLS) –

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the report and the feedback received in respect of observation visits undertaken by Independent Members of the Standards Committee to Town and Community Council meetings be noted
- (2) T H A T, where matters following observation visits of Town and Community Council meetings are highlighted by Independent Members as issues requiring further attention or further visits and / or requests are made by the Monitoring Officer/ Head of Legal and Democratic Services for visits to be undertaken, these be arranged as and when required.
- (3) T H A T a lessons learned report following all Town and Community Council Observation visits undertaken to date be presented to the January 2024 meeting of the Standards Committee for its consideration.

Reasons for decisions

- (1&2) Having regard to the observations undertaken and the role of the Standards Committee.
- (3) To maintain a watching brief having regard to the role of the Standards Committee and the Monitoring Officer.

AGENDA ITEM 7. PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2022/23 AND QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
(MO / HLS) –

RESOLVED – T H A T the report and quarterly newsletter be noted, it being accepted that the comments of the Standards Committee relating to the reasons why some Key Performance Indicator targets, as referenced on page 124 of the report, had not been met, be raised by the Chair at the next meeting of the National Standards Committee Forum.

Reason for decision

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

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

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.

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.