

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Decision Notice –Meeting, 9th September, 2021.

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

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

Present: R. Hendicott (Chairman); R. Alexander, P. Hallett (Independent Members) and Councillor M. Cuddy (Town and Community Council Representative).

AGENDA ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from L. Tinsley (Vice-Chairman) and G. Watkins (Independent Members) and Councillors R.M. Birch, B.T. Gray and A.R. Robertson (Vale of Glamorgan Council).

AGENDA ITEM 2. MINUTES –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 15th July, 2021 be approved as a correct record subject to the typographical error within paragraph 7 of minute 231 being corrected to read “agreed and accepted.”

AGENDA ITEM 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations were received.

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

RESOLVED – T H A T it be noted that no applications had been received.

Reason for decision

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

AGENDA ITEM 5. OBSERVATIONS AT TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS (MO/HLDS) -

RESOLVED -

(1) T H A T it be noted that no further observation updates were available since those provided at the meeting of the 15th July, 2021.

(2) T H A T on completion of all scheduled observations, an over-arching report on key points and matters of best practice found be presented to the Committee.

(2) T H A T it be noted that prior to a new schedule of Vale of Glamorgan Council and Town and Community Council meetings being established following the May 2022 Local Government Elections that the Monitoring Officer may advise at any time that particular meetings are observed.

Reason for decision

(1-3) Having regard to the observations undertaken and the role of the Standards Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 6. ADJUDICATION PANEL FOR WALES ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21 (MO/HLDS) -

RESOLVED – T H A T the Adjudication Panel for Wales Annual Report 2020-21 as attached at Appendix 1 to the report be noted.

Reason for decision

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

AGENDA ITEM 7. PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2020/21 (MO/HLDS) -

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Annual Report and Accounts 2020/21 as appended to the report be noted.

(2) T H A T Independent Standards Committee Members be invited to attend training provided to both Vale of Glamorgan Elected Members and Town and Community Councils, as part of the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Member Induction and Development Programme following the May 2022 Local Government Elections, on the following topics:

- Code of Conduct and
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Reason for decision

(1&2) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 8. HEARING ARRANGEMENTS RELATING TO A COMPLAINT AGAINST COUNCILLOR A IN RESPECT OF B COMMUNITY COUNCIL (MO/HLDS) -

RESOLVED - T H A T the contents of the report be noted, having regard to the fact that an update on the Hearing Arrangements Relating to a Complaint against Councillor A in Respect of B Community Council 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.

AGENDA ITEM 9. 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.

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 items of business on the grounds that they involve 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 11. HEARING ARRANGEMENTS RELATING TO A COMPLAINT AGAINST COUNCILLOR A IN RESPECT OF B COMMUNITY COUNCIL (MO/HLDS) (EXEMPT INFORMATION – PARAGRAPHS 12, 13 AND 18C) -

RESOLVED -

(1) T H A T the allegations to be considered by the Standards Hearing in respect of Councillor A in Respect of B Community Council, as set out in paragraph 2.5 of the Part II report, be agreed.

(2) T H A T the future meeting of the Standards Committee to consider the matter comprise of 6 Members of the Standards Committee to include 4 Independent Members including the Chairman of the Committee, a Vale of Glamorgan Councillor and the Town and Community Councillor representative on the Standards

Committee.

(3) T H A T the Chairman of the Standards Committee chair the hearing if he is in attendance on the day of the meeting.

(4) T H A T in the event that Councillor A is unavailable to attend a hearing on the offered date of 30th September, the Principal Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer be authorised to write to Councillor A to request available dates and advise of the terms of the hearing potentially taking place in their absence as per the complaints procedure.

Reasons for decisions

(1-4) Having regard to the contents of the report.

AGENDA ITEM 12. 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 the correspondence received from the Ombudsman, noting that it was confidential at this stage.