

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Decision Notice –Remote Meeting, 10th June, 2024.

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

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

Present: Councillors R.M. Birch and C.P. Franks and R. Alexander, R. Hendicott and L. Tinsley (Independent Members) and P. Summers (Town and Community Council Representative)

Also present: Councillors L. Burnett (Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources), G.D.D. Carroll, Dr. I.J. Johnson and E. Williams.

AGENDA ITEM 1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR –

RESOLVED – T H A T R. Hendicott be appointed Chair for the 2024/25 Municipal year.

AGENDA ITEM 2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR –

RESOLVED – T H A T L. Tinsley be appointed Vice-Chair for the 2024/25 Municipal year.

AGENDA ITEM 3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillor J.E. Charles and G. Watkins (Independent Member)

AGENDA ITEM 4. MINUTES –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 8th March, 2024 be approved as a correct record.

AGENDA ITEM 5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

Councillor C.P. Franks declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 6 – Applications for Dispensation. The nature of the interest was that Councillor Franks had submitted an application for dispensation, as contained within the report for consideration by the Committee, and therefore withdrew from the meeting for the item.

AGENDA ITEM 6. APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION (MO/HLDS) –

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:

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 C.E.A. Champion	(d), (e) and (f)	To speak and vote when matters relating to the review of Council employment, employee terms and conditions, in view of a family member being employed by the Authority are to be discussed at Vale of Glamorgan Council meetings.
Councillor J. Lynch-Wilson	(d) and (f)	To speak, vote and remain in meetings when matters relating to Community Centres are to be discussed at Vale of Glamorgan Council meetings.
Councillor I.R. Buckley	(d), (e) and (f)	To speak and vote when matters relating to the review of Council employment, employee terms and conditions, in view of a family member (daughter) being employed by the Authority are to be discussed at Vale of Glamorgan Council meetings.
Community Councillor J. Cowpe	(f)	To speak only on matters related to Dinas Powys Music Festival and Dinas Powys Library Activity Centre (DiPLAC) when they

		are to be discussed at Dinas Powys Community Council meetings.
Councillor C.P. Franks	(d), (f), (h) and (i)	To speak only on matters relating to Seel Park, Dinas Powys when they are to be discussed at both Vale of Glamorgan Council meetings and Dinas Powys Community Council meetings.
Councillor S. Campbell	(d), (e), (f) and (i)	To speak, vote and remain in meetings where issues are raised at meetings of the Council (including budgets) in respect of South Point Primary and Ysgol St Baruc.

Reason for decision

Having regard to the applications submitted and discussions held at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 7. 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/HLDS) –

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the proposals set out in paragraphs 2.3 to 2.8 of the report, in relation to meetings with Political Group Leaders, be agreed.
- (2) T H A T the amended Group Leader proforma, as attached at Appendix A to the report, be noted.

Reasons for decision

- (1) Having regard to the content of the report and discussions at the meeting.
- (2) Having regard to the amendments reflected in the Welsh Government Statutory and Non-Statutory Guidance for Principal Councils in Wales published in June 2023.

AGENDA ITEM 8. DRAFT STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT
(MO/HLDS) –

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the draft Annual Report attached at Appendix 1 to the report be approved and forwarded to Full Council.
- (2) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Chair of the Standards Committee to include the additional comments made at the meeting in order to finalise the Annual Report before submission to Full Council.
- (3) T H A T a copy of the finalised report, following presentation to Full Council, be forwarded to each Vale of Glamorgan Town and Community Council Clerk and the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

Reasons for decision

- (1) In compliance with the requirements of Section 63 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.
- (2) In order to insert additional comments into the Annual Report as discussed at the meeting.
- (3) For Information.

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 any update on 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 11. 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.

AGENDA ITEM 12. GROUP LEADER PROFORMAS FOR CONSIDERATION BY STANDARDS COMMITTEE (MO/HLDS) (EXEMPT INFORMATION – PARAGRAPHS 12, 13 AND 14) –

RESOLVED – T H A T the Scrutiny Committee Annual Report be amended to reflect the Committee's satisfaction, following assessment, that the statutory duties placed on Group Leaders have been met.

Reason for decision

Having regard to discussions held at the meeting with political Group Leaders on the completion of the Group Leader code of conduct compliance pro-formas, the Vale of Glamorgan Political Group Leader Threshold Criteria, and the proposals set out in paragraphs 2.3 to 2.8 of the Part I report.