

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

(Civic Centre, Port Talbot)

Members Present:

3rd April, 2009

Chairman: Mr.G.T.Pullen

Vice Chairman: Mrs.L.J.Rees

Independent Member: Mrs.J.E.Howells

NPTCBC Members: Councillors E.Loaring

**Community
Committee Member:** Councillor M.Evans

Officer in Attendance: D.Michael

1. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meetings of the 15th October, and 31st October, 2008, be accepted as a true record.

Report of the Monitoring Officer

2. **REPORT OF PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES
AND ADJUDICATION PANEL FOR WALES 2007/08**

Committee received the above report outlining the complaints received by the Ombudsman and the Adjudication Panel for Wales. The Monitoring Officer's report highlighted the fact that there was a lack of publicly available information in the Ombudsman's Report and he expressed concern also at the extent of the reporting in the Adjudication Panel publication.

RESOLVED: that representations be made to the Ombudsman regarding the reporting of decisions in the Ombudsman's Annual Report and also to the Adjudication Panel about the extent of reporting in its publication.

3. **GRANT OF DISPENSATION UNDER SECTION 81(4) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 – NPT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEMBERS IN RESPECT OF MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILY EMPLOYED BY THE COUNCIL**

RESOLVED: that the current list of Member dispensations set out in the circulated report, as given as Appendix 1 hereto, together with any others granted be extended to 29th May, 2009 (the date of the next meeting of the Committee) and that the Members listed in that Appendix be granted dispensation to speak and vote at meetings of the Council and its Committees, in respect of the matters given in the above circulated report, subject to the terms and conditions set out in the circulated report.

4. **SECTION 12 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ACT 1989**

The Committee considered the above matter which dealt with the guidance to be issued to Members of the Authority by the Monitoring Officer, as set out in the circulated report.

RESOLVED: that the Standards Committee supports the principles of the Monitoring Officer Guidance but that consideration be given to rewording of the letter when issued.

5. **INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES**

The Monitoring Officer updated Members with the consultation process undertaken by the above body at Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council on 30th March, 2009, at which event Members of the Standards Committee had been invited to participate.

Members had valued the opportunity to make a contribution to consideration of this matter.

RESOLVED: that the above update be noted.

6. **URGENT ITEM**

Because of the need to deal now with the matter contained in Minute No. 7 below, the Chairman agreed that this could be raised at today's meeting as an urgent item pursuant to Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Reason:

Due to the timescale in respect of the Strategic Schools Improvement Programme.

Urgent Report of the Monitoring Officer

7. **GENERAL GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS SCHOOL GOVERNORS**

The Monitoring Officer reported on a proposed general dispensation for Members of the Council who are school governors appointed in whatever capacity to enable full participation by all school governor Members equally in discussion of the Strategic Schools Improvement Programme.

RESOLVED: that a general dispensation be granted to all Members who are school governors under Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 to speak and vote on education issues including the Strategic Schools Improvement Programme

CHAIRMAN

APPENDIX 1

Name	Employment Dispensation	Date Granted
Cllr. Mrs. J. Hopkins	Her husband is employed as an ICT Research Officer in Environment	Re-granted 15.08.08
Cllr. E. V. Latham	His son is employed as a Parks Attendant in Environment	Re-granted 15.08.08
Cllr. Mrs. M. A. Lewis	1) Her niece is employed as a PE Teacher in EL&LL 2) Her Daughter-in-law is employed as a Support Teacher in EL&LL	Re-granted 15.10.08
Cllr. A. Llewelyn	His wife is employed as a Teacher in EL&LL	Re-granted 15.10.08
Cllr. Dr. J. D. Morgan	His wife is employed as a Teaching Assistant in EL&LL	Re-granted 15.10.08
Cllr. L. Purcell	Her ex-husband is employed in SSH&H	Grant – 15.08.08
Cllr. P.A. Rees	His daughter-in-law is employed as a School Clerk in EL&LL	Re-granted 15.08.08
Cllr. Mrs. B. Richards	Her son and his partner are employed as Accounts Clerks in Environment	Grant-15.10.08
Cllr. P. D. Richards	His wife is employed as a Specialist Behavioural Outreach Worker in SSH&H	Re-granted 15.08.08
Cllr. J. Rogers	1) His daughter is employed as a Teaching Assistant in EL&LL 2) His son is employed as an Admin Officer in SSH&H	Re-granted 15.08.08
Cllr. D. Vaughan	His wife is employed as a Victim Liaison Worker in CEX's	Re-granted 15.08.08
Cllr. A. N. Woolcock	His niece is employed as a Modern Apprentice in SSH&H	Re-granted 15.08.08