

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

(Civic Centre, Port Talbot)

Members Present:

5th June, 2014

Chairman: Mr. G.T.Pullen

Vice Chairman: Mrs.J.E.Howells

Independent Members: C.L.Jones and Mrs.B.Richards

NPT Members: **Councillors** D.Keogh and A.L.Thomas

**Community
Committee Member:** **Councillor** Mrs.S.Davies

Officers in Attendance: D.Michael and Miss G.Cirillo

1. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the previous meeting held on the 14th February 2014, be confirmed as a correct record.

Report of the Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

2. **GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS RENEWALS UNDER SECTION 81 (4) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000**

Members received an overview of Grant Dispensations, as detailed in the circulated report. The Head of Legal Services explained to Members that the Code of Conduct precludes Members from decision making and illustrated areas where dispensations may be given, for example, Employment Dispensations, Dispensations re School Governors, Standard Dispensation for School Re-organization and Dispensations for Third Sector Review as described in the report. Members considered applications received for the above mentioned dispensations, as detailed in the circulated report.

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the Applications for Employment Dispensation as set out in paragraph 1.2.8. of the report, be approved in the circumstances set out in Regulation 2 (d) of the Standards Committee (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 in the standard form as set out in Paragraph 1.2.6. to speak and vote and that the dispensations run to the Standards Committee which follows the Annual Meeting 2015;
- (b) that the new applications and the applications for renewals of Miscellaneous Dispensations, as set out in paragraph 1.3.2. of the report, be approved in the circumstances set out in Regulation 2 (d) of the Standards Committee (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 to speak or to speak and vote as set out in the Schedule above and that the dispensations run to the Standards Committee which follows the Annual Meeting 2015;
- (c) that the Grant of General Dispensation: School Governors, as detailed in the report, be further granted until the Standards Committee which follows the Annual Meeting 2015;
- (d) that the Applications for School Re-organisation Dispensation as set out in paragraph 1.5.4 of the report, be approved in the circumstances set out in Regulation 2 (d) of the Standards Committee (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 in the standard form as set out in Paragraph 2.5.2. to speak but not vote and that the dispensations run to the Standards Committee with follows the Annual meeting 2015;

- (e) that Standards Committee Applications for Third Sector Review Dispensation, as set out in paragraph 1.6.4 of the revised list, as tabled at the meeting be approved in the circumstances set out in Regulation 2 (c), (d), (g), and (h) of the Standards Committee (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 to speak only and that the dispensations cover all matters related to the Review.

3. **LOCAL RESOLUTION PROCEDURE**

Members received a report seeking approval from Committee for a Local Resolution Procedure. The Head of Legal Services previously reported to Standards Committee that the Welsh Government, the WLGA and the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales encourage local authorities to adopt Local Resolution Procedures with a view to resolving complaints of a breach of the Members' Code of Conduct locally.

The Head of Legal Services explained the process to Members and suggested that a procedure needed to be adopted to comply with guidance which had been issued. A proposed Local Resolution Procedure was attached to the circulated report, for Members' information and discussion.

RESOLVED: that the Local Resolution Procedure as attached at Annex 1 to the circulated report, be commended to Council for final approval.

CHAIRMAN