

STANDARDS COMMITTEE (SPECIAL)

(Civic Centre, Port Talbot)

Members Present:

14th March, 2011

Chairman: Mr G.T.Pullen

Vice Chairman: Mrs.L.J.Rees

Independent Member: Mrs.J.E.Howells

NPTCBC Members: Councillors Mrs L.H.James and P.D.Richards

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

Officers in Attendance: B.Thorne, A.Borthwick and Mrs T.Davies

**Ombudsman's
Representatives:** Ms.C.James and A.Walsh

1. **URGENT ITEM**

Because of the need to deal with the matter contained in Minute 2 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:

To assist the Referral process

2. **MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 13TH DECEMBER, 2010**

A copy of the Minutes of the last Special Meeting of the Standards Committee, which had previously considered the referral from the Ombudsman, was tabled for Members' information.

RESOLVED: that the above Minutes be accepted as a true record.

3. **ACCESS TO MEETINGS**

RESOLVED: that pursuant to Section 100A(4) and (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded for the following item of business which involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 12 and 13 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the above Act.

Private Report of the Deputy Monitoring Officer

4. **REFERRAL FROM THE OMBUDSMAN**

The above mentioned private circulated report contained details of an investigation by the Local Government Ombudsman in relation to a complaint of a breach of the Code of Conduct by three Community Councillors. The report also set out the adopted procedures in respect of Code of Conduct Hearings.

The three Community Councillors in question had been invited to attend this meeting of the Standards Committee and all three were present.

The Committee gave detailed consideration to the Ombudsman's findings, as set out in the circulated report and as presented to the Committee by the Ombudsman's Representatives. Members also took into account the procedural advice as provided by the Deputy Monitoring Officer. The Committee also received the oral representations made by the three Community Councillors.

The representatives of both the Community Councils and the Ombudsman's Office then withdrew from the meeting to enable the Committee to determine the matter.

RESOLVED: that the meeting be adjourned to a date to be determined.

CHAIRMAN