

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

(Civic Centre, Port Talbot)

Members Present:

25th November, 2011

Chairman: Mr.G.T.Pullen

Vice Chairman: Mrs.L.J.Rees

NPTCBC Member: Councillor W.D.Walters

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

Officers in Attendance: D.Michael and Miss A.M.Farrell

Apologies: Mrs.J.E.Howells, Councillors P.D.Richards and
A.J.Taylor.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of the 1st July 2011, be
accepted as a true record.

Matter Arising

Re: Provisions of the Bribery Act 2010: The Head of Legal and
Democratic Services/Monitoring Officer confirmed that no amendments
were needed as relevant practices and procedures were already in place.
A further update would be given regarding the application of the Act in
relation to contract rules.

Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services/Monitoring Officer

2. **RESPONSE FROM THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES TO APPROACH FROM POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Committee considered the above circulated Report.

This matter had been the subject of a previous discussion by Standards Members. The original correspondence from Powys County Council indicated that it advocated the view that all cases should be referred to Standards Committees, or in certain cases the Adjudication Panel for Wales, regardless of whether the Ombudsman would consider that it was likely to attract a penalty. Neath Port Talbot's response was to indicate its support for a two stage test but to suggest to the Ombudsman that there should be a review as to how that test was applied.

The Report included an email from the Association of Council Secretaries and Solicitors Wales branch, which in turn had forwarded a message from the Ombudsman's Office. This correspondence indicated that the Welsh Government was considering its position with regard to the draft Code and the Ombudsman's procedure.

- RESOLVED:**
- (a) that the above report be noted;
 - (b) that, pending a decision by the Welsh Government, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services/Monitoring Officer obtain copies of local protocols from other authorities.

3. **TRAINING SESSIONS FOR COMMUNITY/TOWN COUNCIL COUNCILLORS**

The Committee was advised of the arrangements for training sessions held for the above Councillors in October 2011 and was disappointed to note that the level of attendance was low, possibly due to the fact that the events took place late in the "cycle", with elections taking place in May 2012. Further training would take place in 2012 for both County Borough and Community/Town Councillors.

RESOLVED: that the above report be noted and that a further report to be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee, including the timetable of training events for 2012.

4. **ADJUDICATION PANEL FOR WALES REPORT 2010/2011**

The Committee considered the above circulated Report. Members referred to Paragraph 3.9 of the report where it referred to planning matters. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services/Monitoring Officer drew Members attention to the requirements of the Localism Bill.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

5. **STANDARDS COMMITTEE CONFERENCE 2011**

Members considered the above report which contained an update of the Conference events.

RESOLVED: that the above report be noted

CHAIRMAN