

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

(Teams/ hybrid at Council Chamber - Port Talbot Civic Centre)

Members Present:

11 April 2023

Chairperson: L.Fleet

Vice Chairperson: T.Ward

Independent Members: A.Davies and D.Lewis

NPTCBC Members: **Councillors** W.Carpenter and S.Thomas

Community Committee Members: **Councillor C.Edwards**

Officers In Attendance: T.Davies and C.Griffiths

Invited Attendee: Councillor D.M.Peters (for minute number 5)

1. **WELCOME AND CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None were received.

3. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer suggested a Forward Work Programme workshop be arranged following the next meeting of the Standards Committee, for Members to advise on any additional items they would like to see as part of the Forward Work Programme for 2023-24.

It was noted that a new Forward Work Programme would then be produced for the start of the new cycle of meetings, following the workshop and the Annual Meeting of Council 2023.

4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of 31 January 2023, were agreed as an accurate record.

5. **GROUP LEADER INVITATION**

Members noted apologies from Councillor H.C.Clarke, Leader of the Coedffranc Liberal and Green Group, due to illness.

The Committee welcomed Councillor D.M.Peters (Leader of the Dyffryn Independent Group) to answer the circulated form of questions to Group Leaders, and to discuss Code of Conduct related matters.

Interest was expressed by Members of the Standards Committee to attend meetings of the various Town and Community Councils.

RESOLVED: That the attendance of the Group Leader of the Dyffryn Independent Group be noted, to ensure that the legal obligations under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, were fulfilled.

6. **GROUP LEADERS DUTIES**

Discussion took place about how Members would wish to promote compliance with the legal duty on Group Leaders, and how best to discharge the Standards Committees duties. It was noted that other Authorities have been requesting that an annual report by each Group Leader be produced in relation to this, and presented to the Standards Committee.

RESOLVED: That the template compliance form included at Appendix 1 to the circulated report, be agreed.

7. **STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

The Chair welcomed the opportunity to present the report at a future meeting of Council.

RESOLVED: That the draft Annual Report of the Standards Committee be commended to Council for approval, and that delegated authority be given to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (in consultation with the Chair of the Standards Committee) to amend the report as may be necessary to reflect any updated complaint figures received.

8. **LOCAL RESOLUTION PROCEDURE**

Members considered the appropriateness of the Local Resolution Procedure and discussed whether any amendments should be made.

RESOLVED: That the content of the Local Resolution Procedure be noted.

9. **DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS**

RESOLVED: That the procedure for conducting disciplinary hearings set out in Appendix 1 of the circulated report, be approved.

10. **INDEPENDENT REVIEW**

RESOLVED: That the proposed consultation response by Neath Port Talbot Council, as detailed within the circulated report, be agreed.

11. **URGENT ITEMS**

None were received.

CHAIRPERSON