

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

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

Members Present:

11 March 2024

Chairperson:

Vice Chairperson: T.Ward

Independent Members: A.Davies and D.Lewis

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

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

Officers In Attendance: C.Griffiths, A.O'Donnell, N.Jones and J.Stevens

Apologies: **Councillors** L.Fleet

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

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations received.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED: The minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 October 2023, were agreed as an accurate record.

4. **WHISTLEBLOWING ARRANGEMENTS**

Resolved: That members note the contents of this report.

5. **MEMBER OFFICER PROTOCOL - EMPLOYEE CODE OF CONDUCT**

Resolved: That members note the report.

6. **TO CONSIDER THE PROCESS THE PUBLIC SERVICE OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES ADOPT IN RESPECT OF CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS**

Resolved: That members note the report.

7. **OBSERVATION OF MEETINGS**

Resolved: That members note the report.

8. **COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL - GRANT OF DISPENSATION UNDER S81(4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000**

Officers explained that recommendation 29 should read - It is recommended that this general dispensation be further granted to speak only and that the dispensations cover all matters related to the funding for the voluntary/third sector, such dispensations to run to the Standards Committee which follows the Annual Meeting 2027.

Resolved: That the Recommendations set out in paragraphs 20, 25 and 29 be granted by the Standards Committee.

9. **TOWN/COMMUNITY COUNCIL - GRANT OF DISPENSATION UNDER S81(4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000**

Resolved: That a dispensation be granted to Community Councillors Colin Morgan, Bethany Morgan, Sylvia John and Barry Kaines in respect of Liberty Hall, Briton Ferry when such matters are discussed at Briton Ferry Town Council and that the application for dispensation runs to the Standards Committee, which follows the Annual Meeting 2027.

10. **INDEPENDENT REVIEW CONSULTATION RESPONSES**

Resolved: That the report be noted.

11. **STANDARDS COMMITTEES FORUM - WALES**

Resolved: That the report be noted.

12. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

Any newly requested items from this meeting would be added to the Forward Work Programme.

RESOLVED: That the Forward Work Programme be noted.

13. **URGENT ITEMS**

There were none.

14. **ACCESS TO MEETINGS - EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

15. **REFERRAL FROM THE OMBUDSMAN (EXEMPT UNDER PARAGRAPH 18C)**

Resolved: That the member be given the opportunity to make representations to the Committee, either orally or in writing, in respect of the findings of the investigation and delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chair of the Standards Committee to agree a timetable for a hearing to be convened in accordance with the Adopted Procedures: Code of Conduct Hearings.

CHAIRPERSON