

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

(Committee Room 3 - Port Talbot Civic Centre)

Members Present:

1 August, 2017

Chairperson: J.E.Howells

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

NPTBC Member: Councillor D.Keogh

Community Committee Member: Town/Community Councillor A.Carter

Officers In Attendance: D.Michael and T.Davies

Apology: G.T.Pullen

1. **MEMBER'S DECLARATIONS**

Councillor S.Freeguard	-	Item No. 4 – Grant of Dispensations and Renewal of Grants Under Section 81(4) Local Government Act 2000 – as she was an applicant for a dispensation.
Town/Community Councillor A.Carter	-	Item No. 8 – Private Referral from the Ombudsman – as he was a witness in relation to the complaint.
Independent Member C.Jones	-	Item No. 4 – Grant of Dispensations and Renewal of Grants Under Section 81(4) Local Governement

Act 2000 – as Councillor D.Cawsey (an applicant for a dispensation) is his wife's nephew.

2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 10 MARCH, 2017**

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 March, 2017, be confirmed as a correct record.

3. **APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS**

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

4. **GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS AND RENEWAL OF GRANTS UNDER SECTION 81(4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000**

(At this point in the meeting Councillor S.Freeguard and Mr C.Jones reaffirm their interests in this item and leave the meeting for the discussion and voting – Resolution 4 (a) below)

Members considered renewals and applications received for Employment Dispensations, Miscellaneous Dispensations, Dispensations regarding School Governors, Standard Dispensations for School Reorganisation and Dispensations for Voluntary Sector Funding, as detailed in the circulated report.

The Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer explained that an extra request for dispensation in the categories of Employment and School Reorganisation Dispensations had been received from Councillor Rob Jones (Leader of the Council) as his daughter had recently been employed as a teaching assistant at Ysgol Maes Y Coed. Members approved the grant of the additional Dispensations.

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 of Council 2018;

- (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 as detailed within the circulated report, and that the dispensations run to the Standards Committee which follows the Annual Meeting of Council 2018;
- (c) that the Grant of General Dispensations: School Governors, to speak and vote, as detailed in the report, be further granted until the Standards Committee which follows the Annual Meeting of Council 2018;
- (d) that the Applications for School Reorganisation 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 1.5.2. to speak but not vote and that the dispensations run to the Standards Committee which follows the Annual Meeting of Council 2018;
- (e) that Standards Committee Application for Voluntary Sector Funding Dispensation, as set out in paragraph 1.6.4 of the

circulated report 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 relating to the funding for the voluntary/third sector, and that the dispensations run to the Standards Committee which follows the Annual Meeting of Council 2018.

5. **RECONSTITUTION OF NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

(Councillor S.Freeguard and Mr C.Jones returned to the meeting and took part in the discussion and voting thereon.)

Members discussed the circulated report, and were disappointed to note the low turnout of Members to the four training sessions concerning the Members' Code of Conduct.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

6. **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 Paragraph 18c of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the above Act.

7. **REFERRAL FROM THE OMBUDSMAN**

(At this point in the meeting Town/Community Councillor A.Carter reaffirmed his interest in this item and withdrew from the meeting.)

Members discussed the private, circulated report, as well as the Members Code of Conduct.

RESOLVED: Pursuant to Regulation 7 of the Local Government Investigations (Functions of Monitoring Officers and Standards Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2001 and all and any other powers that having received a report from the Monitoring Officer that the person who is the subject of the investigation be given the opportunity to make representations, either orally or in writing in respect of the findings of the investigation referred to in that report and any allegation of a failure to comply with the Code.

CHAIRPERSON