

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

(Committee Room C - Neath Civic Centre)

Members Present:

17th April, 2015

Chairman: Mr G.T.Pullen

Vice Chairman: Mrs J.E.Howells

Independent Members: C.L.Jones, Mrs.B.Richards and
Town/Community Councillor Mrs S.Davies

NPTBC Members: **Councillors** A.L.Thomas

**Town/Community
Committee Members:** **Councillor** Mrs. S. Davies

Officers InAttendance: D.Michael and Miss G. Cirillo

Apologies: **Councillors** D. Keogh

1. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 10TH
OCTOBER, 2014**

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the previous meeting held on the 10th October 2014, be confirmed as a correct record subject to the Committee noting that in respect of the private item number 5 – **Potential Referral from Public Services Ombudsman for Wales** - the Monitoring Officer confirmed that in respect of this, there was no further information available at this point in time.

2. **WELSH GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER - POWER TO LOCAL
PEOPLE**

The Head of Legal Services and, as Monitoring Officer, advised Members of the proposals of the Welsh Government contained in the Government White Paper, relating to the reform of Local Government. Members were also advised of the Authority's draft responses to the White paper, as detailed

within the circulated report, which would be recommended to Council on 17th April 2015 at 2.00pm.

The Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer gave Members an overview of the issues relevant to Standards Committee from the White Paper and Members had the opportunity to discuss the issues and the recommended responses in detail. The areas discussed were, the Role and Responsibilities of Elected Members, Diversity among Elected Members and Recall of Elected Members, as detailed in the circulated report.

Members thanked the Officer for his work in this matter.

RESOLVED: that the Authority's proposed draft response to the Welsh Government Proposals as contained in the Welsh Government White Paper, in relation to Local Government Reform, as detailed in the circulated report, be supported.

3. **RECRUITMENT TO BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Members of the Committee were advised of an email received from Legal Services in Bridgend County Council, as detailed within the circulated report, regarding current vacancies for two Independent Members.

The Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer reminded Members that the closing date was Friday 17th April 2015.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

4. **NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES FINANCE COMMITTEE EXAMINATION OF OMBUDSMAN POWERS**

Members were presented with a report advising them of an enquiry by the Finance Committee of the National Assembly for Wales into the powers of Public Services Ombudsman for Wales. Members were given a background to the enquiry as detailed in the circulated report, with some evidence submitted to the Finance Committee by the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA).

The Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer highlighted those responses pertinent to the Standards Committee i.e. potential breaches of the Code of Conduct as outlined in the report for Members' information.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

CHAIRMAN