

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

(Committee Room 3 - Port Talbot Civic Centre)

Members Present:

6 March 2020

Chairperson: C.L.Jones

Vice Chairperson: B.Richards

Independent Members: L.Fleet and T.Ward

NPTCBC Members: **Councillors** S.E.Freeguard and D.Keogh

Officers In Attendance: C.Griffiths and T.Davies

Apologies: C.Williams

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Chair offered congratulations on behalf of the Committee to Independent Standards Committee Member, Louise Fleet, who had succeeded D Byron Lewis as HM Lord Lieutenant of West Glamorgan.

1. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 22 November, 2019 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

2. **STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020**

RESOLVED: That the draft Annual Report of the Standards Committee be approved, and that delegated authority be given to the Head of Legal Service, in consultation with the Leader/relevant Cabinet Member, to amend the report as may be necessary to reflect any updated complaint figures received.

3. **TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT MATTERS**

Members gave their feedback on their experiences from recent visits to Town/Community Council meetings. All who had attended these meetings had found it a useful insight.

Members discussed the questions contained within the circulated Code of Conduct questionnaire, and made several suggestions of extra questions, which would be added before circulation to the Town/Community Council Clerks.

RESOLVED: That the Code of Conduct questionnaire, detailed at Appendix 1 to the circulated report, be issued to Town/Community Clerks, and a report be brought back to members at the next Standards Committee.

4. **GRANT OF DISPENSATION IN RESPECT OF SCHOOL RE-ORGANISATION MATTERS UNDER S81(4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000**

RESOLVED: That the application for dispensation set out in paragraph 10 of the circulated report, be approved and that the dispensation run to the Standards Committee which follows the Annual meeting 2022.

5. **INVITATION TO GROUP LEADERS OF NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL TO ATTEND STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED: That the respective group leaders of Neath Port Talbot Council be invited to attend Standards Committee to discuss Code of Conduct matters.

6. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS (WALES) BILL**

RESOLVED: That the content of the draft Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill, be noted.

CHAIRPERSON