

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

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

Members Present:

25 October 2022

Chairperson: C.L.Jones

Vice Chairperson:

Independent Members: L.Fleet and T.Ward

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

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

Officers In Attendance: C.Griffiths and N.Jones

Invitee: **Councillor** S.K.Hunt (Leader of NPT Council)

1. **CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cliff Jones, welcomed all to the meeting, and thanked everyone for their help and friendship during his time as Chair, as this would be his last meeting as Chair of the Standards Committee.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None were received.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of 13 July 2022, were agreed as an accurate record.

4. **GROUP LEADER INVITATION**

Members discussed code of conduct related matters with the Group Leader of the Independent Democratic Group, Councillor Steve Hunt (Leader of Council).

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

5. **STANDARDS FORUM**

The Standards Committee discussed and supported the establishment of a national forum for standards matters, as well as the terms of reference of the forum.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

6. **TOWN COUNCIL TRAINING**

Members discussed the results of the recently circulated Code of Conduct questionnaire, to Town and Community Councils.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

7. **LOCAL RESOLUTION PROCEDURE**

Members considered the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Local Resolution Procedure, and whether any amendments may be required.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and the Local Resolution Procedure be endorsed as drafted.

8. **MEMBER OFFICER PROTOCOL**

Committee Members discussed the Protocol on Member and Officer Relations (a copy of which was contained within the circulated report).

RESOLVED: That the Protocol on Member/Officer Relations, as attached at Appendix 1 to the circulated report, be endorsed.

9. **OMBUDSMAN ANNUAL REPORT**

Members discussed the content of the Public Service Ombudsman Annual Report for Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council for 2022/2023, as enclosed at Appendix 1 to the circulated report, and the steps that officers would continue to embark on as part of general improvement work.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

10. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Standards Committee Forward Work Programme was noted.

11. **URGENT ITEMS**

There were none.

CHAIRPERSON