

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOM 2/3, CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND ON MONDAY, 31 JANUARY 2011 AT 10.00AM.

Present:-

Independent Members

Mr J Irvine - Chairperson
Mr J Bevan
Mrs B Heller
Ms M Powell

Town and Community Councillors

Community Councillor D Lewis

County Borough Councillor

Councillor R D Jenkins

Officers:-

Mr P A Jolley - Monitoring Officer
Mr A Rees - Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees

33 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R J Hancock who had a prior commitment.

34 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

35 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2010 be approved as a true and accurate record.

36 WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY

The Monitoring Officer presented a report on the new Whistleblowing Policy and to inform the Committee of the arrangements for its publicity. He stated that the Policy is subject to annual review and evaluation and as part of that review process a new Policy had been produced which would be presented to Cabinet for approval. He outlined the reporting requirements whereby each Directorate would provide quarterly reports to the Monitoring Officer in relation to any concerns raised and dealt with in accordance with the Policy, in order to facilitate both the roles of the Monitoring Officer and the Standards Committee. The Policy would be subject to annual review and evaluation by the Monitoring Officer and in addition the Standards Committee would periodically monitor the operation of this Policy. The reporting arrangements are intended to better inform Members of the use of the Policy and ensure a Corporate compliance in its application.

He also reported that following approval it was proposed to publish the Policy on the Council's Intranet and website. Additionally, it was proposed to announce the Policy by means of a Bridgend message and invite all Members with concerns and questions, or wishing to discuss the operation of the Policy, to contact the Monitoring Officer.

RESOLVED: That the Committee noted the new Whistleblowing Policy and the arrangements for its publication and compliance and

requested an amendment to better reflect the implications on contractors who abuse the process.

37 STANDARDS CONFERENCE 2010

The Monitoring Officer presented the report of the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on the Standards Conference which she and Councillor Jenkins had attended hosted by Cardiff Council on the 14 October 2010. The Committee considered the importance of Members of the Committee attending future Standards Conferences each year.

The Monitoring Officer informed the Committee that the 2011 Standards Conference is to be held in Llandrindod and hosted by Powys County Council.

RESOLVED: That the Committee noted the contents of the Vice-Chairperson's report and the venue of the 2011 Conference.

38 TRAINING OF COMMUNITY CLERKS AND MEMBERS

The Monitoring Officer reported on steps which had been taken to arrange training of Community Council Clerks and Members on the Code of Conduct and Introduction to Local Government law. He informed the Committee that he had contacted all Community Councils with an offer to provide training at different times of the day to facilitate attendance. Of the 19 Community Councils contacted, 12 had responded. There was however little demand for training on Local Government law generally and it was therefore proposed not to provide this training as it was likely to be provided locally by One Voice Wales. By far the majority of interest had been shown by Members and it was therefore intended to invite Members and Clerks to the same training events.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and Members of the Standards Committee to be invited to attend.

39 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That under section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007 that the public will be excluded from the meeting during such consideration of the following items as the reports contain exempt information as defined in Paragraph 12 of Part 4 of Schedule 12a of the Act:

Following the application of the public interest test it was resolved that pursuant to the Act referred to above to consider the Confidential Minutes of the Standards Committee Meeting held on 20 October 2010 in private with the public excluded from the meeting as it would involve the disclosure of exempt information relating to a particular individual by virtue of Paragraph 12 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Following the application of the public interest test it was resolved that pursuant to the Act referred to above to consider the update in respect of the Standards Committee meeting held on the 20 October 2010 in private with the public excluded

from the meeting as it would involve the disclosure of exempt information relating to a particular individual by virtue of Paragraph 12 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

<u>Minute Nos.</u>	<u>Summary of Items.</u>
40	Confidential Minutes of the Standards Committee Meeting held on 20 October 2010.
41	Update in respect of Standards Committee meeting held on 20 October 2010.