

STANDARDS COMMITTEE - THURSDAY, 14 JUNE 2018

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 2/3 - CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB ON THURSDAY, 14 JUNE 2018 AT 10:00

Present

Mr C Jones OBE – Chairperson

MC Clarke

Mrs J Kiely

Mr G Walter

Apologies for Absence

Mr P Clarke, DRW Lewis and Mr J Baker

Officers:

Andrew Rees

Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees

Laura Griffiths

Principal Solicitor

Kelly Watson

Head of Legal & Regulatory Services

Michael Pitman

Business & Administrative Apprentice

26. INTRODUCTIONS AND MR PA JOLLEY

Members of the Committee were introduced to Kelly Watson, Deputy Monitoring Officer/Group Manager Legal who would be succeeding Mr Andrew Jolley as the Monitoring Officer with effect from 9 July 2018.

The Committee formally placed on record its thanks to Mr Jolley for his guidance and the clarity of advice he gave to both the Committee and to the Authority and for the high quality training he delivered on the Code of Conduct.

27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

28. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee of 8 March 2018 be approved as a true and accurate record.

29. APPOINTMENT TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Deputy Monitoring Officer reported that there is a vacancy for a Town and Community Councillor on the Standards Committee and there is a need for an appointment to be made to fill the vacancy.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer informed the Committee that the Monitoring Officer had been granted delegated authority at the Annual Meeting of Council on 16 May 2018 to oversee a recruitment and appointment process. She stated that she would contact all Town and Community Councils within the administrative area of the County Borough seeking expressions of interest.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

30. STANDARDS CONFERENCE WALES 2018

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The Deputy Monitoring Officer reported that the 2018 Standards Conference Wales will be held on 14 September 2018 at Aberystwyth University and sought nominations from members of the Committee wishing to attend. Details of the conference programme had yet to be received, although Mr N Bennett, the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales would be the keynote speaker.

RESOLVED: That the Chairperson of the Committee, Councillor M Clarke and Town Councillor G Walter attend the Conference with the Monitoring Officer.

31. OMBUDSMAN CODE OF CONDUCT CASEBOOK

The Deputy Monitoring Officer reported on a summary of cases which had been undertaken by the Ombudsman's Office. The Code of Conduct Casebook is published on a quarterly basis and contains the summaries of those cases for which the hearings by the Standards Committee of Adjudication Panel for Wales have been concluded and where the outcome of the hearing is known for the period October to December 2017.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer informed the Committee that an announcement had been made at the last meeting of Council advising Members to exercise caution when using social media and to be alert before engaging in discussions online. The Deputy Monitoring Officer also informed the Committee that Clerks to Town and Community Councils had been advised to approach the Monitoring Officer where there are potential complaints forthcoming against Councillors and not for Town and Community Councillors to approach the Monitoring Officer directly.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

32. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

The meeting closed at 10:15