

STANDARDS COMMITTEE - THURSDAY, 11 JULY 2024

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD REMOTELY - VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY, 11 JULY 2024 AT 09:30

Present

S Maughan – Chairperson

Present Virtually

MJ Williams
P Baker

G Thomas
R Lynch

Mr P Clarke

G Walter

Apologies for Absence

Officers:

Laura Griffiths
Kelly Watson
Nimi Chandrasena
Oscar Roberts

Group Manager – Legal and Democratic Services
Chief Officer - Legal, HR and Regulatory Services
Democratic Services Officer - Support
Business Administration Apprentice – Democratic Services

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Amanda Williams declared a personal interest for item 3, as she is married to Cllr Martin Williams.

Cllr Martin Williams declared a personal interest for item 3, as he is married to Cllr Amanda Williams.

Cllr Graham Walter declared a personal interest for item 6, as he has previously declared interests on some of the cases taken in the last 12 months.

163. Standards of Conduct

Decision Made	<p><u>Invitees:</u> Cllr John Spanswick – Leader of the Council, Labour Group Leader Cllr Amanda Williams – Bridgend County Independents Group Leader Cllr Ross Penhale-Thomas – Democratic Alliance Group Leader</p> <p>The Chief Officer – Legal, HR and Regulatory Services presented this report introducing the Group Leaders to make presentations of their respective groups’ conduct and training over the previous 12 months. The Leader presented his report and Committee members raised a question to him about ongoing reviews. Cllr A Williams then presented her report, acknowledging issues with completing some online training and difficulties with repetition within existing training materials, which the Chief Officer - Legal, HR and Regulatory Services pledged to take to the Democratic Services Committee as a review. The Committee raised a question on training accessibility to the Chief Officer - Legal, HR and Regulatory Services. Cllr R Penhale-Thomas presented his report, noting a need for a further push regarding online member training completion.</p> <p>Questions raised to all Group Leaders included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Standardising approaches to reviewing training• Monitoring Members’ posts on social media• Potential responsibility and oversight over Town and Community Councillors <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> The Group Leaders noted difficulties in managing social media conduct from members of the public towards Councillors, and potential ways to address the problem. The Committee suggested adding a standard item on Standards of Conduct to be included in future Group meetings which the Group Leaders agreed to.</p>
Date Decision Made	11 July 2024

164. Independent Review of the Ethical Standards Framework

Decision Made	<p>The Group Manager – Legal and Democratic Services presented this report for noting on the subject of the Penn Review recommendations as well as the consultation responses on the report follow-up.</p> <p>The Committee posed a question on the timescale of any further updates, and were assured they would be updated on any developments.</p>
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	<u>RESOLVED:</u> The Committee noted the report.
Date Decision Made	11 July 2024

165. Annual Report

Decision Made	<p>The Group Manager – Legal and Democratic Services presented this report reviewing the work of the Committee during 2023/24. It was noted that the Committee has attempted to fill a vacant place for a lay member, but that has been unsuccessful due to a lack of interest but the vacancy will be readvertised in the Autumn.</p> <p>Members noted a lack of some Town and Community Councils being listed on the report, which should be altered before the items goes to full Council. A suggestion was made to inform clerks that the full report has been seen and approved.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> The Committee approved the report.</p>
Date Decision Made	11 July 2024

166. Status Report on Complaints made under the Code of Conduct

Decision Made	<p>The Group Manager – Legal and Democratic Services presented this report updating the Committee of complaints referred to the Monitoring Officer for noting. The Committee raised questions about consistency when hearing investigations before them, with the possibility of future training to assist them when undertaking such investigations.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> The Committee noted the report.</p>
Date Decision Made	11 July 2024

167. Urgent Items

Decision Made	None.
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Date Decision Made	11 July 2024

To observe further debate that took place on the above items, please click this [link](#)

The meeting closed at 10:58.