

STANDARDS COMMITTEE - THURSDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2026

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD REMOTELY - VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2026
AT 10:00

Present Virtually

S Maughan – Chairperson

JE Evans
G Walter

M Daley
P Baker

MJ Williams
R Lynch

G Thomas

Officers:

Laura Griffiths
Michael Pitman
Oscar Roberts

Group Manager – Legal and Democratic Services
Technical Support Officer – Democratic Services
Temporary Democratic Services Officer - Committees

192. Declarations of Interest

Decision Made	The following declarations of interest were made:- • Councillor Martin Williams declared a personal interest in Item 6 as a member of St Brides Minor Community Council, which is the subject of that report. • Councillor Graham Walter declared a personal interest in Item 6 as his partner is a member of Porthcawl Town Council. This declaration was later declared as prejudicial during the discussion on Item 4, during which Councillor Walter left the meeting for this item. • Councillor Gavin Thomas declared a personal interest in Item 6 as the Chair of Maesteg Town Council.
Date Decision Made	12 February 2026

193. Apologies for Absence

This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg

STANDARDS COMMITTEE - THURSDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2026

Decision Made	There were no apologies for absence.
Date Decision Made	12 February 2026

194. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of the 06/02/2025, 26/02/2025, 30/05/2025, 14/07/2025 and 22/07/2025 were approved as a true and accurate record, subject to the amendment of the title for the Chairperson Sue Maughan to remove Cllr next to her name, which was incorrectly input on a number of minutes. A previous resolution was noted by the Committee of suggesting future Member training. A member of the Committee suggested that the Local Resolution Protocol may form a beneficial training subject, which was agreed to by the Chairperson. Dispensations were also raised as a potential useful topic for training.
Date Decision Made	12 February 2026

195. Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Annual Letter 2024/25

Decision Made	The purpose of this report, presented by the Group Manager – Legal and Democratic Services, was to present to the Standards Committee the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Annual Letter 2024/25 for noting. The report outlined a total of 58 complaints against the Authority during 2024/25 and 59 complaints during 2023/24. The Committee posed questions on: • Why only 28% of recommendations made to BCBC have been complied with during the prescribed timeline, and whether those recommendations can be revealed to the Committee. • Whether the Committee can gain further insight into a Town and Community Council with a high volume of code of conduct complaints, and potential actions that can be taken. • Whether the Standards Committee could compose a letter to the Chair of a Town and Community
---------------	--

STANDARDS COMMITTEE - THURSDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2026

	Council indicating their awareness of high complaint numbers and offering possible support. These questions were addressed by the Group Manager – Legal and Democratic Services, who agreed to research the reasons for the low compliance figure with the Complaints team and send an update to the Committee when that is known. <u>RESOLVED:</u> That the Committee noted the report. The Committee further recommended that a letter be sent from the Monitoring Officer to Porthcawl Town Council indicating awareness of their high number of code of conduct complaints and offering any support as appropriate.
Date Decision Made	12 February 2026

196. Local Resolution Protocol

Decision Made	The purpose of this report, presented by the Group Manager – Legal and Democratic Services, was to present to the Standards Committee the revised Local Resolution Protocol for consideration following a review carried out by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) of all the local resolution protocols of principal local authorities across Wales and recommendations made by the All Wales Monitoring Officers' Group. The Committee posed questions on: • Whether Town and Community Councils have similar protocols. • Whether measures could be put in place for greater awareness of this protocol. • The threshold at which the Monitoring Officer would be obliged to refer complaints to the PSOW rather than utilizing the protocol. • Whether Members have been able to contribute towards the drafting of the protocol. • Whether the Authority keeps statistics or analyses the minor complaints dealt with under the protocol. Whether attendance at training could be recorded for Town and Community Council Members. • Whether the numbers of Town and Community Council Members who have not undergone mandatory and optional training could be shared with the Committee.
---------------	--

STANDARDS COMMITTEE - THURSDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2026

	• Whether the Group Leaders could be asked about their progress encouraging high standards of conduct and attendance at Member training with their respective groups at the next Standards Committee at which they are present. These questions were addressed by the Group Manager – Legal and Democratic Services, who agreed to recommend several actions surrounding the protocol. <u>RESOLVED:</u> That the Committee agreed the revised Local Resolution Protocol for submission to full Council for approval.
Date Decision Made	12 February 2026

197. Updates from Observing Town and Community Council Meetings

Decision Made	The purpose of this report, presented by the Group Manager – Legal and Democratic Services, was to update the Standards Committee following Members of this Committee observing meetings of Town and Community Councils. Three observations have taken place in recent months of Town and Community Councils, with any relevant observations noted. The Committee posed questions on: • The schedule of visits compiled by the Group Manager – Legal and Democratic Services and circulated to the Committee. • Whether a rota or schedule of Committee members viewing meetings could be arranged. • Whether the information contained within this report is in the public domain, and whether Clerks and Town and Community Council Members are informed of the publication of these observations. • Succession planning for Town and Community Clerks. • Whether Members of the Committee who are not independent can also view Borough Council meetings as part of these observations. These questions were addressed by the Group Manager – Legal and Democratic Services, who agreed to share any feedback from observations of Town and Community Councils with the Clerks once they have been published. The Group Manager – Legal and Democratic Services also clarified that assistance with succession planning for Town and Community Council Clerks would be outside the Committee's remit.
---------------	---

STANDARDS COMMITTEE - THURSDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2026

	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the Committee noted the report.
Date Decision Made	12 February 2026

198. Appointment of Vice-Chairperson

Decision Made	The purpose of this report, presented by the Group Manager – Legal and Democratic Services, was to appoint a Vice Chairperson for the Standards Committee. No nominations were received. It was noted that two of the Independent Members are newly appointed to the Committee and may wish to take further time to become familiar with the role and its responsibilities. In addition, two other members indicated that they were unable to commit to the role at this time due to other commitments. <u>RESOLVED:</u> That the appointment of a Vice Chair be deferred to the next meeting.
Date Decision Made	12 February 2026

199. Urgent Items

Decision Made	None.
Date Decision Made	12 February 2026

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

The meeting closed at 11:27.

This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg

