

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

HELD AT GUILDHALL, SWANSEA ON FRIDAY, 5 JUNE 2015
AT 9.30 AM

PRESENT: Meirion Howells (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)	Councillor(s)	Councillor(s)
P Downing	C E Lloyd	L G Thomas

Independent Members:

Jill Burgess Margaret Williams	Gareth Evans	Jennifer Gomes
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Officers:

P Arran	-	Head of Legal, Democratic Services and Procurement
H Evans	-	Head of Democratic Services
A Lowe	-	Councillor Support Officer

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J A Hale.

2 DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

In accordance with the provisions of the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea, no interests were declared.

3 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Standards Committee held on 17 April 2015 be accepted as a correct record.

4 MATTERS ARISING

- 1) Minute 57 "Community / Town Councils Standards Sub Committee Merger with Standards Committee"

The Head of Legal, Democratic Services and Procurement confirmed that the legislation covering membership of the Standards Committee is The Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001. The Standards Committee (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 provide that the term of office of a member of a local authority standards committee who is a community committee member shall be no more than 4 years or until the ordinary election

of the Community Council, whichever is the shorter. The Regulations also provide for the reappointment of the community committee member for one further consecutive term provided that Community Council and Community Council association in the area are consulted prior to re-appointment.

There is therefore clear provision under the 2006 legislation for the appointment of a community committee member to any merged Standards Committee for the above term and re-appointment if appropriate after the relevant consultation. Full Council is required to make the appointment.

5 **COMMUNITY / TOWN COUNCIL STANDARDS SUB COMMITTEE MERGER WITH STANDARDS COMMITTEE (VERBAL)**

The Head of Democratic Services provided an update in relation to the Merger of the Standards Committee and Community Council Standards Sub Committee.

All responses from the Community / Town Councils had been favourable. A report would be submitted to Council on 25 June 2015 setting out the results of the consultation and a proposal for the future.

6 **STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEMBERS OBSERVING OTHER COUNCIL BODY MEETINGS PROTOCOL**

The Head of Democratic Services submitted a report in order to set out a clear protocol for the members of the Standards Committee to follow when they attend other Council Body Meetings as Observers.

The main points of the protocol were set out in paragraph 3.1 of the report.

RESOLVED that the Protocol be adopted with the following amendments:

- 1) Add "and Monitoring Officer / Deputy Monitoring Officer" after the words Head of Democratic Services (HDS)" in point (vi).
- 2) The Monitoring Officer to clarify the position of members of Standards Committee in terms of exclusion (The Monitoring Officer indicated that he did not envisage him advising a change to the Protocol (point viii).

7 **COUNCILLOR TRAINING AND ATTENDANCE**

The Head of Democratic Services presented a report to review Councillor Training and to consider ways of improving Councillor attendance at training events.

NOTED that the Standards Committee had been invited to attend the next Democratic Services Committee scheduled for 16 June 2015, where discussions would take place as to how the Standards Committee could assist in the process. It was also noted that the Monitoring Officer was presenting an update on the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales guidance to the Code of Conduct to Council on 23 July 2015.

8 **WORKPLAN 2015 - 2016**

RESOLVED that the Workplan 2015-2016 be noted.

Date	Issue
4 September 2015	Dispensation Regime (Patrick Arran)
4 September 2015	Overview of Councillor Training inc. Issues of Attendance
4 September 2015	Treating People with respect
4 September 2015	Inconsistency in Ombudsman Decisions
Various	Merger of the Standards Committee and the Community / Town Councils Standards Sub Committee (Huw Evans)
TBC	Local Dispute Resolutions
TBC	Declarations of Interest
TBC	Good governance and best practice
Aim for 4 September and 4 December 2015	Annual meetings with Political Group Leaders and Chairs of Committee (Audit, Cabinet Advisory x 5, Democratic Services, General Licensing, Planning and Scrutiny Programme)

The meeting ended at 10.15 am

CHAIR