



City and County of Swansea

## Minutes of the **Standards Committee**

Multi-Location Meeting - Gloucester Room, Guildhall / MS

Teams

Friday, 7 October 2022 at 10.00 am

**Present:** Jill Burgess (Chair) Presided

**Councillor(s)**

O G James

C Rabaiotti (Community / Town Council Representative)

**Councillor(s)**

M B Lewis

**Councillor(s)**

L G Thomas

**Co-opted Member(s)**

Michaela Jones

**Co-opted Member(s)**

Janet Pardue-Wood

**Officer(s)**

Tracey Meredith

Huw Evans

Allison Lowe

Chief Legal Officer / Monitoring Officer

Head of Democratic Services

Democratic Services Officer

**Apologies for Absence**

Independent Member(s): Mike Lewis and Margaret Williams

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As there were more Councillors than Independent Members present, Councillor M B Lewis withdrew from the meeting and took no further part.

**12 Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.**

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

**13 Minutes.**

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Standards Committee held on 24 June 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**14 Member / Member Local Dispute Resolution Protocol.**

The Monitoring Officer presented a report to consider the Protocol on Member / Member Local Dispute Resolution Protocol and proposed changes.

**Resolved** that Appendix A be recommended to Corporate Management Team and Council for formal adoption subject to the following amendments:

- 1) Paragraph 3.1 – Add the Monitoring Officer to those notified when a member wishes to use the Protocol;
- 2) Paragraph 3.2 - The word “formally” be added after the word “referred”.

**15 Protocol on Member / Officer Relations.**

The Monitoring Officer presented a report to consider the Protocol on Member / Officer Relations and proposed changes.

**Resolved** that the Standards Committee recommend the updated Protocol at Appendix A to the Corporate Management Team and Council for formal adoption subject to the following amendment:

- 1) A footnote / link regarding the Nolan Principles & the Officers Code be added to the “Respect and Courtesy” section.

**16 Group Leader Duty.**

The Monitoring Officer presented a report to consider the template for Group Leaders to complete in relation to their duty to the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

**Resolved** that the template attached at Appendix A be approved, subject to the following additions:

- 1) A date field be added to the form;
- 2) Guidance on how to complete the form and an explanation of why the information is required be included;
- 3) Section 1. Training – Responses should be split to differentiate between new members and existing members;
- 4) Examples be included in Sections 2 and 4.

**17 Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Annual Report and Accounts 2021/2022.**

The Monitoring Officer provided a “For information” report to update the Standards Committee on the Annual Report and Accounts of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales 2021/2022.

**18 Breach of Code of Conduct - Complaints made to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW).**

The Monitoring Officer presented a “For Information” report to update the Standards Committee on decisions made by the PSOW in relation to allegations that Local Authority and Community / Town Councillors had breached the Code of Conduct.

**19 Workplan 2022-2023.**

The Monitoring Officer presented the Work Plan for 2022-2023.

**Resolved** that the Work Plan be noted.

**20 Thanks and Welcome.**

The Monitoring Officer outlined that this was probably the current Chairs last meeting of the Standards Committee as her term of office would end on 18 October after 10 years. The Committee thanked the outgoing Chair for the work undertaken during that period.

The Monitoring Officer also welcomed Councillor Carlo Rabaiotti, the Community / Town Council representative to his first meeting, following his appointment on 6 October 2022.

The meeting ended at 10.46 am

**Chair**