



City and County of Swansea

## Minutes of the **Standards Committee**

Multi-Location Meeting - Gloucester Room, Guildhall / MS

Teams

Wednesday, 22 March 2023 at 1.15 pm

**Present:** Mike Lewis (Chair) Presided

### **Councillor(s)**

M B Lewis

### **Co-opted Member(s)**

Michaela Jones

Janet Pardue-Wood

### **Co-opted Member(s)**

Mark Rees

Margaret Williams

### **Officer(s)**

Tracey Meredith

Allison Lowe

Chief Legal Officer / Monitoring Officer

Democratic Services Officer

### **Apologies for Absence**

Councillor(s): L G Thomas, C Rabaiotti

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#### **41 Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.**

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

#### **42 Exclusion of the Public.**

The Committee was requested to exclude the public from the meeting during the consideration of the item(s) of business identified in the recommendation to the report on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as set out in the exemption paragraph of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007, relevant to the item(s) of business set out in the report.

The Committee considered the Public Interest Test in deciding whether to exclude the public from the meeting for the item(s) of business where the Public Interest Test was relevant as set out in the report.

**Resolved** that the public be excluded for the following items of business.

**(Closed Session)**

**43 Unreasonable Customer Behaviour Policy Appeal.**

The Monitoring Officer presented a report to consider an appeal under the Unreasonable Customer Behaviour Policy.

Further written information had been requested by the Standards Committee at its meeting of 2 March 2023. The further written information was attached at Appendix 5.

**Resolved** that:

- 1) The Standards Committee uphold the action of the Local Authority in invoking the Unreasonable Customer Behaviour Policy;
- 2) The Monitoring Officer write to the Corporate Complaints Team requesting that the content in section 3.2 be considered in any future letter in the event it is applicable.

**44 Request(s) for Dispensation.**

The Monitoring Officer presented a report to consider a request for dispensation.

In considering the granting of dispensations, the Committee sought to balance the public interest in preventing members with prejudicial interests from taking part in decisions, against the public interest of decisions being taken by a representative group of members of the Authority.

The reasons behind the application were outlined in the report and expanded on by the Monitoring Officer during discussion on the matter.

**Resolved** that:

Councillor Stevens be granted dispensation to stay, speak & make written representations but **not** vote on any matter relating to the Food (Wales) Bill and Sustainable Food Policy.

This dispensation shall **not** apply if the Councillor is or becomes aware of any impact on a closely associated person (within the meaning of paragraph 10 (2) (c) of the Code of Conduct) that relates to and is specific to the Food (Wales) Bill or Sustainable Food Policy.

The meeting ended at 1.44 pm

**Chair**