

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

**HELD AT COMMITTEE ROOM 5, GUILDHALL, SWANSEA ON FRIDAY,
20 JANUARY 2017 AT 9.35 AM**

PRESENT: M Williams (Vice Chair) Presided

Councillor(s) J A Hale	Councillor(s) C E Lloyd
----------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Co-opted Member(s) G Evans	Co-opted Member(s)
--------------------------------------	---------------------------

Community / Town Council Representative
P Crayford

Officer(s) Huw Evans Allison Lowe Stephanie Williams	Head of Democratic Services Democratic Services Officer Principal Lawyer
--	--

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): L G Thomas
Independent Member(s): J Burgess

18 **DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS.**

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

19 **MINUTES.**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Standards Committee held on 7 October 2016 be signed and approved as a correct record.

20 **REVIEW OF DISPENSATIONS.**

The Head of Democratic Services presented a report updating the Standards Committee on the dispensation regime and amendments to legislation.

He stated that dispensations were valid until the next Local Government Election (4 May 2017) or for a period of time specified by the Standards Committee (whichever ends sooner). All dispensations granted by the Standards Committee of the City & County of Swansea would therefore cease on 4 May 2017.

As part of this Review of Councillors Dispensation, the form had been reviewed and amended. The amended form seeks to simplify the request for dispensations by improving the guidance notes to reflect the legislative changes.

RESOLVED that the proposed Councillors Request for Dispensation Form – Standards Committee (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 (as amended) be adopted and used from 4 May 2017.

21 **BREACH OF CODE OF CONDUCT - COMPLAINTS MADE TO THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES (PSOW).**

The Head of Democratic Services provided a current list of outstanding Complaints made to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) in relation to Breaches of the Code of Conduct.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

22 **WORKPLAN 2016-2017.**

The Head of Democratic Services provided an updated work programme for 2016-2017.

There were currently no items listed for the meeting scheduled for 3 March 2017 and therefore consideration would be given to cancelling the Committee.

The Annual Meetings with Political Group Leaders and Chairs of Committees would commence following the Local Government Elections May 2017, around September / October 2017.

23 **UPDATE ON INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE VACANCIES. (VERBAL)**

The Head of Democratic Services provided a verbal update on the current position regarding the 2 vacancies for Independent Members on the Standards Committee.

A Standards Committee Vacancy Panel had considered 2 applications, however neither candidate had been appointed. The process shall re-commence shortly.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) The update be noted;
- 2) Contact details of any relevant groups / businesses who may be interested in receiving details regarding the vacancies be forwarded to the Head of Democratic Services.

The meeting ended at 10.00 am

CHAIR