



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **Standards Committee**

Multi-Location Meeting - Gloucester Room, Guildhall / MS

Teams

Friday, 23 June 2023 at 10.00 am

Present: Mike Lewis (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

O G James

Councillor(s)

M B Lewis

Councillor(s)

L G Thomas

Co-opted Member(s)

Janet Pardue-Wood

Co-opted Member(s)

Mark Rees

Officer(s)

Huw Evans

Allison Lowe

Head of Democratic Services

Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for Absence

Independent Member(s): Michaela Jones and Margaret Williams

1 Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City & County of Swansea, the following interests were declared:

Councillors O G James and M B Lewis declared a personal interest in minute 4 "Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Referral – Alleged Breach of the Code of Conduct by a Community Councillor".

Councillor L G Thomas declared a personal and prejudicial interest in minute 4 "Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Referral – Alleged Breach of the Code of Conduct by a Community Councillor" and left the meeting prior to any discussion taking place.

2 Minutes.

Resolved that the Minutes of the 2 x Standards Committee held on 22 March 2023 be approved and signed as correct records.

3 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)

4 Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Referral - Alleged Breach of the Code of Conduct by a former Community Councillor.

The Head of Democratic Services on behalf of the Monitoring Officer presented a report to consider the report of the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) in relation to an alleged breach of the Code of Conduct by a former Community Councillor which had been referred to the Monitoring Officer for determination by the Standards Committee.

The Head of Democratic Services outlined the details of the complaint. The Committee were asked to consider whether there was:

- a. no evidence to support the complaint or
- b. whether the former Councillor concerned be given the opportunity to respond, either orally or in writing.

The Committee considered the evidence and felt that there was sufficient evidence to proceed to the next stage of the process and the former Councillor be given the opportunity to respond. The Committee would consider the arrangements for a Hearings Panel to hear and determine the matter, in accordance with the Hearings Panel Procedure.

Resolved that:

- 1) The Head of Democratic Services / Monitoring Officer write to the former Councillor and the PSOW inviting them to respond in accordance with the Hearings Panel Procedure.

The meeting ended at 10.27 am

Chair