

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held at the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavilions, Clydach Vale on Monday, 13 April 2015 at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Independent Members

Mrs.A.Jones and Mr.M.Jehu, MBE

County Borough Councillors

C.Davies and G.Stacey

Officers in Attendance

Mr.C.B.Jones - Deputy Monitoring Officer

Mr.A.Wilkins –Head of Legal - Democratic and Corporate

25 CHAIR FOR THE MEETING

In the absence of the Chair (Mr.G.Smith), the Vice-Chair (Mrs.A.Jones) took the Chair for the meeting.

26 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Members had no interests to declare in matters pertaining to the agenda.

27 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 13 February 2015.

28 STANDARDS CONFERENCE 2015

The Deputy Monitoring Officer confirmed that this year's Standards Conference would take place at Cardiff City Hall on 20th October. He outlined the draft Conference Programme and stated that once firm details for the event were confirmed, Members would be advised accordingly.

29 PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES – SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST MEMBERS – JULY 2014-FEBRUARY 2015

In his report, the Monitoring Officer provided a summary of complaints made against Council Members and submitted to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales for the period July 2014-February 2015 and

following consideration thereof, it was **RESOLVED** to note the information.

30 **CONSULTATION – WHITE PAPER – REFORMING LOCAL GOVERNMENT : POWER TO LOCAL PEOPLE**

The Deputy Monitoring Officer informed the Committee of the Welsh Government's consultation in respect of its White Paper – Reforming Local Government : Power to Local People and requested the Committee to provide feedback on the specific proposals/options relating to Standards Committee outlined therein. The Committee's views would then be included as part of the Council's overall response to the White Paper which was being considered at the Council meeting scheduled for 22nd April 2015.

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the views of individual members of the Standards Committee be sent directly to the Monitoring Officer after this meeting following their perusal of the draft response prepared by the WLGA and the draft minutes of the Council's Scrutiny Working Group in respect of the White Paper.

31 **GUIDANCE FROM THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES IN RESPECT OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

With the permission of the Chair, the Head of Legal – Democratic and Corporate reported orally on the new guidance issued by the Ombudsman for members of local authorities in Wales in respect of the Code of Conduct.

The Committee was informed that all County Borough Councillors had been provided with a copy of the Guidance document and particular reference was made to the flow charts attached which would assist Members in determining whether they have personal and prejudicial interests to declare at meetings. It was considered this would be particularly beneficial to members of the Development Control Committee and these new flow charts would be attached to future agenda for meetings of that Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the information.

**A.JONES
CHAIR**

The meeting terminated at 2.38 p.m.