

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 Friday, 29 January 2016 at 2.30 p.m.

PRESENT

Independent Members

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

County Borough Councillors

C.Davies and G.Stacey

Community Councillor

R.Butler

Officers in Attendance

Mr.P.J.Lucas – Monitoring Officer

Mr.A.Wilkins – Head of Legal – Democratic & Corporate

19 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests in matters pertaining to the agenda.

20 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 26 November 2015.

REPORTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

21 FEEDBACK REPORT PUBLISHED BY CARDIFF CITY COUNCIL ON THE STANDARDS CONFERENCE WALES 2015

In his report, the Monitoring Officer presented the Report published by Cardiff City Council providing feedback on the Standards Conference Wales 2015 - 'Standards and Ethics in a Changing World' and following consideration thereof, it was **RESOLVED** to note the report and advise Cardiff Council of an error in the wording of Bullet Point 4 shown on the last page of the report in that 'In RCT, the whole Committee (not Council) is involved rather than just three Independent members in Cardiff'.

22 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ETHICAL FRAMEWORK – WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON AMENDMENTS TO SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION (INCLUDING MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT)

In his report, the Monitoring Officer advised the Committee of the recent Welsh Government consultation concerning proposed amendments to subordinate legislation relating to the local government ethical framework (including Model Code of Conduct).

The Monitoring Officer stated that the Council would consider adopting the new Model Code of Conduct at the Annual General Meeting to be held in May 2016 and he would also advise the Clerks of Community/Town Councils within the County Borough that they too would need to adopt the new Model Code of Conduct.

Following consideration of the Monitoring Officer's comments, it was **RESOLVED** to note the contents of the consultation document and proposed amendments to the legislation.

23 MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

Pursuant to Minute No.15 (Standards Committee, 26 November 2015) the Monitoring Officer provided the Committee with information relating to the overall attendance/non-attendance by Members at Council and relevant Committee meetings during the period 20 May – 31 December 2015.

During consideration of the information provided in the report, a discussion ensued around the type of information the Committee required to be presented in future relating to individual Member's attendances. In this regard, the Monitoring Officer referred to the level of information currently provided on the website of Cardiff City Council in relation to attendance by its individual Councillors which the Standards Committee might wish to consider.

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** –

- (1) To agree that details of individual Councillor's attendance at meetings of full Council and meetings of the Audit Committee and all Regulatory and Scrutiny Committees to which they have been appointed, be collated and reported back to the Standards Committee for consideration.
- (2) That the level of detail in each individual case includes the Member's attendance or non-attendance and whether an apology for absence was submitted or not.
- (3) That the Monitoring Officer puts in place arrangements to ensure that the level of information required is recorded on the Council's

website on an individual Councillor basis and produced along the lines of that currently published by Cardiff City Council.

- (4) That prior to the 2016 Annual General Meeting of the Council, the Chairman of the Standards Committee meets with the Leaders of the various Political Groups within the Council to outline the intention of the Standards Committee to monitor individual Members' attendances at meetings in the future.
- (5) To receive information relating to individual Members' attendance at training sessions at a future meeting.

24 APPLICATION FOR DISPENSATION – COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCILOR K.MONTAGUE

In his report, the Monitoring Officer outlined an application for dispensation received from County Borough Councillor K. Montague and following consideration of the request, it was **RESOLVED** to grant County Borough Councillor Keiron Montague a dispensation to speak at Cabinet and Voluntary Sector Liaison Steering Group meetings on all matters concerning approval of applications (including applications from groups or organisations of which he is a member) to the Council's Community Enabling Fund which forms part of the 'RCT Together' initiative or via the Council's concessionary lettings process in view of his role and capacity as the relevant Cabinet Member portfolio holder for Tackling Poverty, Engagement & Housing which includes responsibility for voluntary sector funding and support, up to the next Local Government Elections in May 2017.

**M.JEHU, MBE
CHAIRMAN**

The meeting terminated at 3.35 p.m.