

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: STANDARDS COMMITTEE - 19TH JULY, 2022

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC SUPPORT OFFICER

PRESENT: R. ALEXANDER (CHAIR)

Councillor J. Thomas
Ms. S. Rosser
Mr. F.R Lynch
Mr. S. Williams

WITH: Head of Legal and Corporate Compliance (Monitoring Officer)
Data Protection & Governance Officer

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
No. 1	<u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u> No requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.	
No. 2	<u>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</u> Apologies for absence were received for: Councillor M. Cross and Helen Roberts.	
No. 3	<u>INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS</u> Introductions were undertaken.	

<p>No. 4</p>	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>No declarations of interest or dispensations were reported.</p>	
<p>No. 5</p>	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></p> <p>The minutes of the Standards Committee held on the 28th January, 2022 were submitted.</p> <p>Following a brief discussion,</p> <p>The Standards Committee AGREED that the minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
<p>No. 6</p>	<p><u>RENEWAL OF TERMS OF OFFICE</u></p> <p>The Governance & Data Protection Officer explained membership of the Committee as follows:</p> <p>No Member to exceed a term of 10 years (to include one term of 6 years and a second term of 4 years)</p> <p>It was reported that two Members of the Committee had reached their 6 year first term, namely Ronnie Alexander and Helen Roberts. However, Helen Roberts had decided not to take up a second term, and as a result there would be a vacancy on the Committee.</p> <p>It was then proposed that Ronnie Alexander's position on the Committee be formally extended for a term of 4 years, and this was seconded and AGREED.</p>	
<p>No. 7</p>	<p><u>RENEWAL OF CHAIR</u></p> <p>Nominations were sought for the appointment of Chair for 2022/23.</p> <p>It was AGREED that Mr. R. Alexander be appointed Chair of the Standards Committee for 2022/23.</p> <p>Nominations were then sought for the appointment of Vice-Chair, and it was AGREED that Mr. S. Williams be appointed Vice-Chair of the Standards Committee for 2022/23.</p>	
<p>No. 8</p>	<p><u>SECTIONS 62 & 63 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT &</u></p>	

ELECTIONS (WALES) ACT 2021: DUTIES OF LEADERS OF POLITICAL GROUPS

A discussion ensued when the following points of action were raised:

- A Member suggested a review be undertaken of the number of Local Resolutions undertaken by the Monitoring Officer.
- A Member also suggested an overview of the work of the Democratic Services Team, in terms of the training provided for elected Members, be brought to the Standards Committee.
- Consideration of a register of interests.
- Training on dispensations had been granted to Members, and further training to be offered.
- Members of the Standards Committee to meet with Leaders of political groups.

No. 9

FUTURE WORK PLAN/TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

The following points were raised:

Schedule of meetings for the year.

Monitoring Officer to provide a schedule of training that has been provided for Members.

No. 10

ANY OTHER BUSINESS/DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Meeting with Group Leaders in October.

Next meeting of the Standards Committee – January TBC.