

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: STANDARDS COMMITTEE - 24TH JANUARY, 2023

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER

PRESENT: R. ALEXANDER (CHAIR)

R. Lynch
S. Williams
Councillors M. Cross
L. Winnett

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>APOLOGIES</u> Apologies for absence were received from:- Councillor S. Thomas (Leader of the Council) Councillor J. Wilkins (Leader of the Independent Group) Councillor J. Thomas Ms S. Rosser	
No. 3	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u> No declarations of interest or dispensations were reported.	

<p>No. 4</p>	<p><u>STANDARDS COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>The decisions of the Standards Committee held on the 18th October, 2022 were submitted.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the decisions be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
<p>No. 5</p>	<p><u>ACTION SHEET</u></p> <p>The Action Sheet arising from the meeting held on 18th October, 2022 was submitted.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that Group Leaders only be invited to meetings of the Standards Committee if relevant items on the agenda; and the work of the Democratic Services Team and the Monitoring Officer be noted in the Annual Report.</p>	
<p>No. 6</p>	<p><u>TERMS OF REFERENCE</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the draft Terms of Reference.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the draft Terms of Reference be amended to include the word ‘ethics’ to reflect the Nolan Principles, the word standards precluded by the word ethics; • the Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance to look at the involvement of the Committee in Town/Community Council work; • the Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance to pursue attendance of the Town Council representative on the Committee. 	
<p>No. 7</p>	<p><u>STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT DRAFT TEMPLATE</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the Annual Report draft template.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the Annual Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • should report on items in the public domain; • should include a Chair’s conclusion summing up the work of the Committee for the year and the conclusion to note the 	

	<p>work of the Democratic Services Team and the Monitoring Officer;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Special Standards Committee be convened on 2nd March, 2023 to approve final version of the Annual Report before being considered at Council on 30th March, 2023; • the report to cover a calendar year i.e. January 2022 – January 2023. 	
<p>No. 8</p>	<p><u>STANDARDS COMMITTEE LAY MEMBER VACANCY APPOINTMENT UPDATE</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the verbal report of the Data Protection & Governance Officer.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the verbal report be noted.</p>	
<p>No. 9</p>	<p><u>CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS AMENDMENT TO PROCESS</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the verbal report of the Monitoring Officer.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that if the new process was causing issues to advise the Ombudsman going forward.</p>	
<p>No. 10</p>	<p><u>FUTURE TRAINING OF MEMBERS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE UPDATE</u></p> <p>The Committee AGREED that a virtual half day training session be arranged with an external provider for existing and new Members. Torfaen and Monmouthshire Council's to be invited to attend. An internal discussion on the training session to be held once completed.</p> <p><u>AOB/DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>The Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance to look to establish a specific webpage promoting the work of the Standards Committee.</p> <p>The next meeting to be held on 2nd March, 2023.</p>	