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Our Ref./Ein Cyf.
Your Ref./Eich Cyf.
Contact:/Cysylltwch â: Democratic Services

THIS IS A MEETING WHICH THE PUBLIC ARE ENTITLED TO ATTEND

15th September 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

ETHICS & STANDARDS COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Ethics & Standards Committee will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams - if you would like to attend this meeting live via Microsoft Teams please contact committee.services@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk on Thursday, 21st September, 2023 at 2.00 pm.

Yours faithfully

Damien McCann
Interim Chief Executive

AGENDA

Pages

1. SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION

You are welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, a minimum notice period of 3 working days is required should you wish to do so. A simultaneous translation will be provided if requested.

2. APOLOGIES

To receive.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

To receive any declarations of interest and dispensations made.

4. **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

5 - 6

To receive the decisions of the special Standards Committee held on 2nd March, 2023.

(Please note the decisions are submitted for points of accuracy only).

5. **ACTION SHEET**

7 - 8

To receive the Action Sheet arising from the special meeting held on 2nd March, 2023.

6. **OMBUDSMAN ANNUAL REPORT**

To consider the Ombudsman Annual Report.

<https://www.ombudsman.wales/annual-report-accounts/>

EXEMPT

To receive and consider the following report(s) which in the opinion of the proper officer is/are an exempt item(s) taking into account consideration of the public interest test and that the press and public should be excluded from the meeting (the reason for the decision for the exemption is available on a schedule maintained by the proper officer).

7. **OMBUDSMAN REFERRALS**

9 - 12

To consider referrals made to the Ombudsman.

To: R. Alexander (Chair)
Lynch
Rosser
S. Williams
J L White
Councillor M. Cross
Councillor J. Thomas
Councillor L. Winnett

All other Members (for information)
Interim Chief Executive
Chief Officers

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STANDARDS COMMITTEE

2ND MARCH, 2023

PRESENT: MR R. ALEXANDER (CHAIR)

Mr S. Williams
Mr R. Lynch
Ms J. White
Councillor M. Cross
Councillor L. Winnett

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

1. SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION

No requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.

2. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Ms S. Rosser
Councillor J. Thomas

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations of interest or dispensations reported.

4. STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 24TH JANUARY, 2023

The decisions of the Standards Committee held on the 24th January, 2023 were submitted.

The Committee AGREED that the decisions be accepted as a true record of proceedings.

5. ACTION SHEET

The Action Sheet arising from the meeting held on 24th January, 2023 was submitted.

The Committee AGREED that the action sheet be noted and raised the following points:-

- That the suggestion be made to the Leader that the Standards Committee be renamed 'Ethics & Standards Committee' at Annual Council.
- That the current involvement of the Standards Committee to support Town/Community Councils work to remain as it currently stands.
- The matter of Town/Community Council representation at the Standards Committee meetings be pursued.
- Enhanced description of the work and composition/profile of the Standards Committee be included on the existing webpage including the inclusion of the Annual Report.

6. STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

Consideration was given to the Annual Report 2021-22.

The Committee AGREED that the Annual Report be approved and be presented to Council on 30th March, 2023 and also raised the following points:-

- The Chair to be invited to attend Council on 30th March to answer any questions/clarify points that may be raised in relation to the Standards Committee Annual Report.
- Annual Reports to be developed in January each year with a Standards Committee being held annually in February to discuss, with report going forward to Council in March.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Standards Committee to be convened late May/early June 2023.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Action Sheet

Standards Committee

Meeting Date	Action to be Taken	By Whom	Action Taken
2nd March 2023 Item 5	<u>ACTION SHEET</u> Terms of Reference - 24 January 2023 meeting – Suggestion to the Leader for the Standards Committee to be renamed ‘Ethics & Standards Committee’ at Council.	Andrea Jones	It was agreed at Council (30th March 2023) to change the name of the Standards Committee to “Ethics and Standards Committee”. Action complete: 30th March 2023
	Terms of Reference – 24 January 2023 meeting – look at the involvement of the Standards Committee in Town/Community Council work.	Andrea Jones	The Standards Committee agreed that the current involvement of the Standards Committee to support Town/Community Councils to remain as it currently stands. Action complete: 2nd March 2023
	The matter of Town/Community Council representation at the Standards Committee meetings be pursued.	Steve Berry	Town Council appointing replacement at AGM in May. Follow up email sent 30 th May to request update. Action complete:

Meeting Date	Action to be Taken	By Whom	Action Taken
	<p>Look to establish a specific webpage promoting the work of the Standards Committee - 24 January 2023 - Enhanced description of the work and composition/profile of the Standards Committee be included on the existing webpage including the inclusion of the Annual Report.</p>	Andrea Jones/ Steve Berry	<p>This page has now been created and information such as the ToR and Annual Report added. Further additions can be made when required.</p> <p>https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/council/councillors-and-committees/ethics-and-standards-committee/</p> <p>Action complete: 14th April 2023</p>
Item 6	<p><u>STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2021 - 2022</u></p>		
	<p>Chair to be invited to attend Council on 30th March to answer any questions/clarify points that may be raised in relation to the Standards Committee Annual Report.</p>	Andrea Jones	<p>Completed</p> <p>Action complete: 30th March 2023</p>
	<p>Annual Reports to be developed in January each year with a Standards Committee being held annually in February to discuss, with report going forward to Council in March.</p>	Andrea Jones	<p>Action complete:</p>

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