

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMUNITY SUB-COMMITTEE,  
HELD AT COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS ON WEDNESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER  
2013**

**PRESENT:** Mrs H. Rhydderch-Roberts (Chair)  
Mrs J. Evans, Mrs M. Harris, Mrs S. Jarman, Mr R. Miller, Community Councillors Ms C. Evans, H. Patrick and D. Pugh and County Councillor G. Williams.

**Observers:** County Councillors Mrs M. Mackenzie, P. Medicott and Mrs K. Roberts-Jones.

**Officers in Attendance:** C. Pinney (Solicitor to the Council), W. Richards (Scrutiny Manager and Interim Head of Democratic Services), Ms S. Tamboo (Solicitor – Corporate) and Mrs E Patterson (Scrutiny Officer).

<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>	<b>STCS13 - 2013</b>
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No apologies for absence were received.

<b>2.</b>	<b>MINUTES</b>	<b>STCS14 - 2013</b>
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The Chair was authorised to sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2013 as a correct record subject to the inclusion of Councillors Mrs Mackenzie and Mrs Roberts-Jones as attending as Observers.

<b>3.</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	<b>STCS15 – 2013</b>
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No declarations of interest were received.

<b>3.</b>	<b>REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR TO THE COUNCIL</b>	<b>STCS16 - 2013</b>
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The Sub-Committee received the report of the Solicitor to the Council. (Copy filed with signed minutes)

**A. Referral of Councillors to the Public Services Ombudsman.**

**A1. Town and Community Councillor Referrals.**

The following update on referrals to the Ombudsman was given:

18/12/TCC – the Adjudication Panel for Wales is considering this case.

01/13/TCC – the investigation will not be continued as there was no evidence of a breach.

04/13/TCC - a new complaint was received which the Ombudsman has decided not to investigate.

05/13/TCC - a new complaint was received which the Ombudsman has decided not to investigate.

06/13/TCC - a new complaint was received which the Ombudsman has decided not to investigate.

07/13/TCC – awaiting a decision whether or not to investigate

## **B. Dispensations.**

No applications for dispensation were received.

## **C Other Standards Issues**

### **C1.1 Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Bill**

This received Royal Assent on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2013 and is now the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013.

The Act requires Town and Community Councils to publish electronically information regarding their Members, how to contact their Clerk, together with notices, agendas and meeting documents (unless exempt), minutes of Council meetings and an audited statement of the Councils accounts. Town and Community Councils will also be required to publish declarations of interest electronically.

It was confirmed that the Monitoring Officer of the County Council will continue to act as Monitoring Officer for Town and Community Councils.

## **D Local Resolution Panels**

The Public Services Ombudsman has made representation that Councils institute Local Resolution processes to reduce the number of complaints sent to the Ombudsman. If there is no progress with setting up these processes there is a risk that Councils will be compelled to accept a standardised process established by legislation.

The Committee discussed the following areas:

- the type of complaints that could be considered
- the type of complaints that would not be considered
- who would be involved in the process
- the process to be followed
- what outcomes there could be

### **RESOLVED:**

**That a draft Local Resolution Panel process be brought to the next meeting of the Standards Committee for consideration.**

## **E Membership of Standards Community Sub-Committee**

### Independent Member Mrs Jarman

Mrs Jarman has been an Independent Member of the Standards Community Sub-Committee since 24<sup>th</sup> October 2007 and her first term of office came to an end on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2013. Mrs Jarman indicated that she would be happy to continue to

serve for a second term and this extension for a further 4 years to 24<sup>th</sup> October 2017 was agreed by the County Council on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

#### Independent Member Mrs Harris

Mrs Harris is nearing the end of her second and final term of office which will end in June 2014. The County Council on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2013 approved a timetable for the appointment process to fill the vacancy which will commence in January 2014.

#### **F Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales**

A draft supplementary report had been received from the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales reintroducing items removed in its 2012 report as from January 2014 to include:

- a) reasonable time for pre-meeting preparation.
- b) Travelling time to and from the place of the meeting (up to the maximum of the daily rate)

A review of the current limits set by the Council for the number of days which Co-opted Members could be paid for attending meetings has been undertaken. The County Council has decided to keep the limit for Independent Members and Town and Community Council representatives at 10 days, but increased the limit for the Chair of Standards Committee from 10 to 12 days.

#### **G Meeting Dates**

The following dates for the Sub-Committee were confirmed:

5<sup>th</sup> February 2014  
9<sup>th</sup> April 2014  
25<sup>th</sup> June 2014  
3<sup>rd</sup> September 2014  
3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014

All meetings to commence at 10.00am with the option of training available afterwards.

**Mrs H Rhydderch-Roberts  
Chair**