

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD AT  
COMMITTEE ROOM A - COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS, POWYS ON  
WEDNESDAY, 7 FEBRUARY 2018**

**PRESENT**

Independent Member Mrs H Rhydderch-Roberts (Chair)

Independent Members: Mrs C Jackson, Mrs J Evans, Mr S Hays and Mrs C Mulholland  
County Councillors Mrs S McNicholas and Mrs K M Roberts-Jones

Observers: Community Councillors Mr H Patrick and Mrs J Shearer

In attendance: Mr C Pinney (Solicitor to the Council), Mr W Richards (Head of Democratic Services) and Mrs E Patterson (Scrutiny Officer).

<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>
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Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors Mrs S Lewis and Mrs K Silk and Mrs D Jones (Deputy Monitoring Officer).

<b>2.</b>	<b>MINUTES</b>
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The minutes of the meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017 were agreed subject to the following amendment:

Item 3, paragraph 3: *'case 6/15/CC as she ~~was~~ had not sat on.....'*

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

<b>4.</b>	<b>REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR TO THE COUNCIL</b>
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The Committee received the report of the Solicitor to the Council (copy filed with signed minutes).

**A General Standards Issues for County Councillors and Co-opted Members**

**A1 Code of Conduct Training**

All County Councillors and Co-opted Members have now been trained on the Code of Conduct.

## A2 Mandatory Training

The County Council agreed mandatory training in July 2015 for the following sessions:

- Code of Conduct
- Data Controller
- Corporate Parenting
- Adult and Child Protection
- Treasury Management

This was not implemented as the term of office neared to a close but it is considered appropriate to implement this now the new term has started. It is intended to take the Mandatory Training Policy back to Council to approve the inclusion of following sessions as mandatory:

- IT and information security
- Equalities and Diversity
- Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act 2015

In addition Council had agreed a programme of Mandatory Training arising from the outcome of the CIW Review of Children's Services.

RESOLVED THAT:	REASON FOR RESOLUTION:
<p>(i) To note the Council's policy in relation to Mandatory Development Sessions.</p> <p>(ii) That the Committee writes to all Group Leaders and Co-Opted Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reminding them of the Council's policy,</li> <li>• providing a list of mandatory training dates, and</li> <li>• advising that in future the names of Members not attending Mandatory Development Sessions will be reported to the Standards Committee.</li> </ul>	<p>To implement the Council's policy regarding Mandatory Training as approved on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2015.</p>

## B. Referral of Councillors to Public Services Ombudsman

### B1. County Councillor Referrals

**B1.1** The current position regarding matters with the Ombudsman was as follows:

02/CC/2017 Ombudsman investigating.  
01/CC/2018 Ombudsman investigating.  
02/CC/2018 Ombudsman deciding whether or not to investigate

**C1 Applications - County Councillors**

No applications for dispensation have been received from County Councillors.

**D Ombudsman's Casebook**

The Ombudsman had published the Code of Conduct Casebook for the following period:

- July – September 2017

A copy of this Casebook was attached at **Appendix A**.

**E Annual Report from Adjudication Panel for Wales**

The Adjudication Panel for Wales (APW) had published its Combined Annual Report for 2014/15 and 2015/16 which can be accessed from the Adjudication Panel for Wales website.

**F Adjudication Panel for Wales decision report**

In October 2017 the Adjudication Panel for Wales published a decision report in respect of Alison Halford former Councillor for Flintshire County Council. The Adjudication Panel for Wales had received the matter as a referral from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales and, having dealt with the matter at a Case Tribunal on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017. The outcome of the Tribunal was to disqualify Ms Halford from being or becoming a Member of a relevant authority for a period of 14 months.

A copy of the report was attached at **Appendix B**.

**G Register of Gifts and Hospitality**

The Register of Gifts and Hospitality covering the period May 2016 – November 2017 at **Appendix C** was noted.

**H. Meeting Dates**

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018 - Attendance statistics to be reported  
Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018 – Standards Conference Aberystwyth University  
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018

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