

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2025

PRESENT: **Independent Members**

Mr Trefor Owen (Chair)
Mr Brace Griffiths (Vice-Chair)
Mr Rhys Davies
Mr John Robert Jones
Mrs Gill Murgatroyd

Representing the County Council

Councillor Margaret Murley Roberts
Councillor Dafydd Rhys Thomas

IN ATTENDANCE: Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer
Legal Services Manager (MY)
Committee Officer (SC)

APOLOGIES: None

1 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Councillor Margaret Murley Roberts and Councillor Dafydd Rhys Thomas wished it to be recorded that they had considered, and taken legal advice, on whether they were required to declare an interest in relation to agenda Item 3. Both Councillors have a professional working relationship with the Councillor who is the subject of the report at agenda Item 3. However, they both concluded that the relationship did not reach the level of a close personal association within the meaning of the Members' Code of Conduct and that they would participate in agenda Item 3 there being no requirement to declare an interest nor to withdraw from consideration of the item.

2 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED to adopt the following: -

“Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, to exclude the press and public from the meeting during discussion on the following item on the grounds that it may involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of the said Act and in the attached Public Interest Test.”

3 INITIAL DETERMINATION OF COMPLAINT REFERRED BY THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES TO THE MONITORING OFFICER FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL'S STANDARD COMMITTEE

Submitted – a report by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer to decide whether a complaint referred to the Standards Committee by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales demonstrated either, that: -

- (i) “there is no evidence of any failure to comply with the Code of Conduct; or
- (ii) the matter must go to a local hearing to enable the Member to make representations, orally or in writing, in respect of the findings of the investigation and any allegation that the Member has failed, or may have failed, to comply with the Code of Conduct”.

Having considered the Monitoring Officer's report, and the report of the PSOW's Investigating Officer, the Standards Committee unanimously agreed that the complaint should be the subject of a local hearing and passed the following resolution: -

RESOLVED: -

- **That that matter be referred to a local hearing of the Committee so as to enable the relevant Member to make representations, orally or in writing, in respect of the findings of the investigation and any allegation that the Member has failed, or may have failed, to comply with the Code of Conduct.**
- **That the Monitoring Officer conducts the Pre-Hearing process in accordance with the Procedure.**

The meeting concluded at 2:15 pm

**MR TREFOR OWEN
CHAIR**