

# STANDARDS COMMITTEE

1 May 2024

## Present (in Person):

Mr J Daniels and Dr R Plummer.

## Present (Remotely):

Mr P Davies, Councillor Dr S Hancock MBE, Mrs W Taylor and Mrs V Tomlinson

(Llanion Park, Pembroke Dock: 2.00pm – 2.45pm)

### 1. **Personal Matters**

The Chair referred to the sad passing of Councillor Reg Owens, a former Member of the Committee, who had died earlier in the year.

### 2. **Apologies for absence**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M James.

### 3. **Disclosures of interest**

Dr R Plummer made a general personal declaration as an NRW Board Member, Plantlife Trustee and Director of Plantlife Biodiversity Enhancement Ltd.

### 4. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2023 were presented for confirmation and signature.

On the proposal of Councillor Dr Hancock, seconded by Mrs V Tomlinson, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2023 be confirmed and signed.

### 5. **Report of the Standards Committees' Chairs' Forum**

This meeting had been attended by the Chair, Mr Daniels, who advised how useful it had been to learn how matters were dealt with by other Authorities.

Members noted the item on Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) Standards Committees. It was reported that the Authority was part of the South West Wales CJC, for which Neath Port Talbot was the lead authority for Governance and it was believed that their Standards Committee acted as Standards Committee for the CJC.

It was also noted that this Authority had adopted the common threshold of £25 in respect of registration of gifts and hospitality.



Mr Daniels also noted that he had attended 2 training sessions in respect of the role of Standards Committees and Standards Committee hearings. He proposed that training on the latter be organised for all members of the Committee. The potential of sharing training with Pembrokeshire County Council Standards Committee was discussed and would be pursued by the Monitoring Officer.

The report of the Chairs' Forum held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024 was **noted**.

## **6. Annual Report of the Monitoring Officer 2023/24**

The Chair welcomed the Monitoring Officer who presented his annual report which featured information regarding the terms of reference for the Committee, Code of Conduct Training, Local Resolution Protocol (LRP), Dispensations, the Unacceptable Actions by Complainants Policy, the Annual Report of the Ombudsman and the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

It was noted that Mrs Tomlinson's term of office on the Committee would shortly be coming to an end and that recruitment would be carried out in the near future. It was suggested that efforts were made to widen the diversity of the Committee by using alternative means of recruitment such as Facebook, and this was noted. The Chair added his thanks to Mrs Tomlinson for her contributions to the Committee.

With regard to the training event held in November 2023, it was noted that Independent Standards Committee members had not been invited to this session and requested that they be made aware of future training dates. The Monitoring Officer agreed that joint training sessions would be held going forwards. The recording of such training so that those who were not able to be present were able to watch it after the event was commended.

On the proposal of Dr Plummer, seconded by Mrs Tomlinson, it was **RESOLVED** that;

- i) the report be noted;
- ii) the report be agreed as the basis for the Standards Committee's Annual Report to be submitted to the National Park Authority in accordance with the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

