

SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 22 MARCH 2018 AT SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS

61. PRESENT:

Mr G Hughes (Chair)	Independent Lay Member
Mr S Barnes	Independent Lay Member
Mr D Fussell	Independent Lay Member
Dr M Kerbey	Independent Lay Member
Councillor J Harries	South Wales Fire & Rescue Authority
Councillor A Roberts	South Wales Fire & Rescue Authority

APOLOGIES:

Mr R Alexander	Independent Lay Member
Councillor V Smith	South Wales Fire & Rescue Authority

ABSENT:

OFFICERS PRESENT: - Mr C Powell – Deputy Monitoring Officer,
Ms S Watkins – Assistant Monitoring Officer

62. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW MEMBERS

The Chair extended a warm welcome to the newly appointed Members of the Standards Committee.

Following a request by the Chair, each Member and Officer provided a formal introduction.

RETIREMENT

As the Deputy Monitoring Officer was due to retire after 40 years in the Service, the Chair took the opportunity to wish him all the very best of luck in his retirement, and to thank him for his hard work on behalf of the Standards Committee.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer thanked the Members for their kind words

63. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

64. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

For the benefit of new Members, the Chair took the opportunity to provide a brief overview of the work of the Standards Committee meeting and its structure.

The minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 6 March 2017, were received and accepted as a true record of proceedings.

Following a query raised by Members on the quorum required to proceed with a Standards Committee meeting, Officers confirmed that 3 persons had to be present, including the Chair, with half the Members being Independent.

65. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented a report which informed Members about the appointment of Independent Members of the Standards Committee.

The Chair confirmed that 13 high quality applications had been received, and 11 candidates had been interviewed.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed to note the content of the report.

66. MEMBERS' TRAINING

The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented a report which informed Members of the attendance of Fire & Rescue Authority Members at various training events throughout the year.

RESOLVED THAT

66.1 Members agreed to note the content of the report.

66.2 With reference to providing further training, Officers informed Members of the possibility of combining training with other Local Authorities in the future.

67. THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN'S CODE OF CONDUCT CASEBOOK

The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented a report to Members which highlighted the work of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales, and the type of complaints he considered in dealing with breaches of the Code of Conduct.

RESOLVED THAT

67.1 Members agreed to note the contents of the report.

67.2 Following discussion on the complaints procedure, Members unanimously agreed that they found the Public Services Ombudsman's Code of Conduct Casebook useful.

68. STANDARDS CONFERENCE WALES 2018 – 14 SEPTEMBER 2018

The Deputy Monitoring Officer advised Members of the forthcoming Standards Conference on 14 September, 2018, and sought their interest in attendance.

RESOLVED THAT

68.1 Members agreed to note the content of the report.

68.2 Following discussion on Members providing expressions of interest to attend the Standards Conference, Officers confirmed that Members would receive further information closer to the date

69. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES ANNUAL REPORT 2018

The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented a report which informed Members of the recommendations contained within the Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed to note the contents of the report.

70. ADJUDICATION PANEL FOR WALES – SANCTIONS GUIDANCE

The Deputy Monitoring Officer sought Members' views on the draft Sanctions Guidance of the Adjudication Panel for Wales.

RESOLVED THAT

Following Members consideration of the draft guidance, and lengthy discussion on amendments and observations, Officers agreed to revisit the following points within the document and to provide further clarification:-

- Page 3 – Point 10
- Page 8 – Point 35
- Page 16 – Point 52

Members unanimously agreed the Sanctions Guidance of the Adjudication Panel for Wales provided valuable advice and guidance.

71. WELSH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS

The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented a report which brought Members' attention to two Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) publications which had been drafted for consultation.

RESOLVED THAT

Following consideration of the documents that had been drafted by the WLGA, Members unanimously agreed that the publications were useful and informative.

Following a query on the length of time Members could sit on the Standards Committee, Officers confirmed that Independent Lay Members could sit for 6 years, with a possible extension of a further 4 years.

Members were also advised to contact Officers if they had any queries or wished to raise any new issues at future Standard Committee meetings.

Following a request by Members, Officers agreed to circulate a copy of the calendar of Fire & Request Authority meetings for the new Municipal Year 2018/2019, once they had been formally approved.