

STANDARDS & ETHICS COMMITTEE

27 NOVEMBER 2007

Present: Independent Members: Akmal Hanuk (Chairperson),
Maureen Hedley-Clarke and Anne Morgan

Community Councillor David Suthers
County Councillors Griffiths and James

Apologies: Deirdre Jones and Paul Stockton

S111 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Standards & Ethics Committee held on the 18 September 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

S112 : MONITORING OFFICER'S VERBAL UPDATE

The Monitoring Officer updated the Committee on a number of points arising from previous meetings and discussions took place as part of the update.

- (i) Member Development – the Committee were advised that Member Development would now be taken forward post May 2008 Elections, it is intended that training would include the new code and understanding the role of Community Councils.

The issue of Member Development had been discussed with all the political groups and feedback had been positive. Members had signed up to compulsory training for issues such as planning.

It was noted that the work carried out in Committee to “raise the bar” has been accepted by Members.

The Committee were advised that it is intended that an intensive first programme of training and development would commence from July 2008 onwards.

A report to agree a strategy will be taken to the Executive in January 2008.

- (ii) Whistleblowing – the Committee were advised that in order to raise awareness of the Whistleblowing policy and procedure for reporting, an article had been placed in the ‘Our News’ newsletter and circulated to staff in their payslips. It was confirmed that the Whistleblowing policy and procedure had been reported to Members.
- (iii) Gifts and Hospitality – the recommendation of the Standards & Ethics Committee to reduce the threshold for registration of gifts and hospitality to £25 had been adopted by the Council and had now been implemented.

The Chairperson thanked the Committee for their hard work in dealing with this issue.

RESOLVED – That the Monitoring Officer’s verbal update be noted.

S113 : PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A CHARTER BETWEEN CARDIFF COUNCIL AND LOCAL COMMUNITY COUNCILS

The Committee received a report advising that the Welsh Assembly Government is currently consulting on guidance and best practice relating to the development of proposed Charters between Unitary Authorities and Town and Community Councils in Wales.

The document is based on joint working which has been undertaken since May 2006 between the Welsh Assembly Government, the Welsh Local Government Association, One Voice Wales, Society of Local Council Clerks, The Wales Audit Office and Individual Representatives from Local Government.

The matter was considered at the Executive Business meeting on 8 November 2007 when it was agreed to explore the development of a Charter with Local Community Councils that could assist in formalising relationships with the Council.

The Committee noted the current Welsh Assembly Government consultation and discussed the report and attached draft model charter.

The Committee noted that it was the intention of the Council to formally

respond to the consultation document in a positive way and that the Community Councils would be providing a separate response.

RESOLVED – That

- (1) the draft Charter and the Executive report be noted;
- (2) the formal response of the Council to the Welsh Assembly Government consultation document be supported;
- (3) further discussions take place between the Council and representatives of the Community Councils in due course to explore the possibility of agreeing a common approach.

S114 : UPDATE ON THE REVIEW OF THE MODEL LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF CONDUCT IN WALES

A verbal update was given on the current position. The Committee was advised that following consultation, a draft revised Code had been issued in 2007, however, no formal date had been set for implementation. It was anticipated that implementation would be post May 2008 Elections.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

S115 : GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME

The Committee at its meeting in May 2007 discussed the Governance Programme following which it requested that a further report be provided on the progress of the actions taken to address the recommendations made by the Cardiff Commission on Corporate Governance.

The Committee discussed the status of the recommendations and noted that this was a positive report and that progress had been made in a number of areas.

The Committee made particular reference to Recommendation 34 and the progress that had been made, in particular that the Committee since it was established had raised the profile and had published two annual reports which had been presented to the full Council.

RESOLVED – That the report which set out the actions taken to address the recommendations made by the Cardiff Commission on Corporate

Governance be noted.

S116 : APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

The Committee has statutory authority to grant dispensations to Members of a relevant Authority with a personal interest in a matter, allowing them rights to speak and vote or to vote (depending on the nature of the interest).

The Committee were referred to the agreed Policy for Granting Dispensations which was attached to the report as Appendix A. The Policy recites the grounds on which dispensations may be granted by the Committee.

The Monitoring Officer advised the Committee that a number of applications had been received for dispensation and they were attached to the report as Appendix B.

RESOLVED – That having considered the recommendations in respect of the dispensations, the Committee's decisions in respect of each individual application are set out in the attached table. The dispensations shall not apply where the Member concerned has an interest, other than the one referred to in the table:

(See separate table attached)

S117 : WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee discussed the items on the Work Programme for 2007/08 and updated the content and timescales.

RESOLVED – That the Work Programme for 2007/08 be updated as agreed by the Committee at the meeting.

No.	Member	Personal Interest	Dispensation Sought	Relevant Ground/s	Decision – that the following dispensations be granted/not granted provided that the dispensations where granted shall not apply where the Member concerned has an interest other than the one referred to below.
1.	Community Councillor David Silver (Radyr and Morganstown Community Council)	Co-opted Governor for Bryn Deri County Primary School; and Councillor silver’s daughter previously attended this school.	To speak and vote at meetings of the Community Council on matters relating to Bryn Deri County Primary School.	d and f	A dispensation be granted to Community Councillor David Silver to speak and vote at meetings of the Radyr and Morganstown Community Council on matters relating to Bryn Deri County Primary School.
2.	Community Councillor Rachel Granger (Radyr and Morganstown Community Council)	LEA Governor for Bryn Deri County Primary School.	To speak and vote at meetings of the Community Council on matters relating to Bryn Deri County Primary School.	d and f	A dispensation be granted to Community Councillor Rachel Granger to speak and vote at meetings of the Radyr and Morganstown Community Council on matters relating to Bryn Deri County Primary School.
3.	Community Councillor Rachel Granger (Radyr and Morganstown Community Council)	LEA Governor for Radyr Comprehensive School.	To speak and vote at meetings of the Community Council on matters relating to Radyr Comprehensive School.	d and f	A dispensation be granted to Community Councillor Rachel Granger to speak and vote at meetings of the Radyr and Morganstown Community Council on matters relating to Radyr Comprehensive School.
4.	Community Councillor Helen Lloyd (Radyr and Morganstown Community Council)	Member of Morganstown Village Hall Committee (Community Council appointee)	To speak and vote at meetings of the Community	d and f	A dispensation be granted to Community Councillor Helen Lloyd to speak and vote at meetings of the Radyr and Morganstown Community Council on

			Council on matters relating to Morganstown Village Hall.		matters relating to Morganstown Village Hall.
5.	Community Councillor Judith Marsh (Radyr and Morganstown Community Council)	Member of Taffs Well Quarry Liaison Committee (Community Council appointee).	To speak and vote at meetings of the Community Council on matters relating to Taffs Well Quarry.	d and f	A dispensation be granted to Community Councillor Judith Marsh to speak but not to vote at meetings of the Radyr and Morganstown Community Council on matters relating to Taffs Well Quarry.
6.	County Councillor Gareth Neale	Board Member of Cardiff Bus (Council nominee).	To speak and vote at meetings of the County Council on matters relating to Cardiff Bus.	d and f	A dispensation be granted to County Councillor Gareth Neale to speak and vote at meetings of the Council or any of its Committees or Sub Committees on matters relating to Cardiff Bus.