

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
4TH NOVEMBER 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet of Flintshire County Council held remotely via Zoom on Monday 4th November 2024.

PRESENT: **Julia Hughes (Chair)**
Councillors: Teresa Carberry, Ian Hodge and Antony Wren.
Co-opted members: David Wynn Davies, Councillor Ros Griffiths, Jacqueline Guest, Mark Morgan and Gill Murgatroyd.

ALSO PRESENT: Town and Community Councillors and Clerks.

APOLOGIES: None.

CONTRIBUTORS: Chief Officer (Governance) / Monitoring Officer

IN ATTENDANCE: Team Leader – Democratic Services.

38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

The Chair explained that the National Standards Forum for Wales was scheduled to meet in January and any items for that meeting should be sent to the Chair.

39. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on [2 September 2024 \(agenda item number 3\)](#) were submitted and confirmed as a correct record.

The name of Co-opted Member Ros Griffiths was to appear as Councillor Ros Griffiths.

RESOLVED:

That subject to the amendments the minutes of the meeting be confirmed as a correct record.

40. DISPENSATIONS

None submitted.

41. ITEMS RAISED BY TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS
[\(link to recording\)](#)

The Monitoring Officer introduced the item, the purpose of which was to discuss any ethical issues of the work of the Standards Committee raised by Town and Community Councils ([agenda item number 5](#)).

No issues had been raised in advance of the meeting. Town and Community Councillors were given the opportunity to raise any issues at the meeting but none were identified.

RESOLVED:

That it be noted that no issues had been raised.

42. TRAINING NEEDS FOR TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS
(link to recording)

The Monitoring introduced the [report \(agenda item number 6\)](#) which was to assure the Standards Committee on the assistance given to Councillors to comply with the code and training undertaken on the code for Town and Community Councils.

Town and Community Councils were also asked whether they had any unfulfilled training needs and, in case they had significant needs, their willingness to pool funds to commission training.

An e-learning module was supported and once developed would be sent to clerks so to distribute to their Members.

The recommendation in the report was supported.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Standards Committee confirms that it is assured on the training provided to Town and Community Councillors;
- (b) That the use of an e-learning module be supported; and
- (c) Clerks to ask their Members for ideas for training needs.

43. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME
(link to recording)

The Monitoring Officer introduced the [Forward Work Programme \(agenda item number 7\)](#) which enabled the Committee to consider topics to be included.

The items listed in the Forward Work Programme were supported.

It was agreed that feedback from the additional Ethical Liaison Meeting (ELM) taking place in November should feedback in January, along with receiving suggested items for the ELM in February. The report following the meeting with Group Leaders, which takes place in March, to be reported at the meeting in April.

RESOLVED:

That subject to the above, the Forward Work Programme be noted.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 – TO CONSIDER THE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That the press and public be excluded for the remainder of the meeting for the following items by virtue of exempt information under paragraph(s) 12 and 18c of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

44. OUTCOME OF PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES INVESTIGATION REFERENCE 202309367

The Monitoring Officer introduced the report which provided details of a recently concluded investigation undertaken by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales. The detailed outcome was explained, which concluded that the Councillor was not in breach of the code. As part of the investigation the Councillor referred to their inexperience, the report therefore recommended that the Councillor undergoes training.

The Standards Committee recommended mandatory training being offered to all Councillors tackling the areas outlined in the report, with the possibility of an e-learning module in the future.

RESOLVED:

Mandatory training being offered to all Councillors tackling the areas outlined in the report, with the possibility of an e-learning module in the future.

45. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

There were no members of the public in attendance.

(The meeting commenced at 6.30 p.m. and ended at 7.54 p.m.)

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Chair