



## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF**

### **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

#### **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**25 APRIL 2023**

### **NATIONAL STANDARDS FORUM - FEEDBACK FROM MEETING HELD ON 27<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023**

#### **REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**

##### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To provide Members with feedback from the inaugural meeting of the National Standards Forum held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

##### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 To note the feedback from the inaugural meeting of the National Standards Forum held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023.
- 2.2 To consider whether there are any items the Committees wishes to put forward as suggestions for consideration by the National Standards Forum at its future meetings.

##### **3. BACKGROUND AND INAUGURAL NATIONAL FORUM MEETING**

- 3.1 As reported to the Committee [at its last meeting](#) a National Forum for Standards Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs has been established. The terms of reference for the Forum are attached at Appendix 1. By sharing best practice it is anticipated the Forum will help to raise standards across all authorities in Wales.
- 3.2 The first meeting of the Forum took place on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023. The agenda for the meeting is attached at Appendix 2.
- 3.3 At that meeting the Forum appointed a Chair (the Chair of the Standards Committee for Conwy County Borough Council) and a Vice Chair (The Chair of the Standards Committee for Cardiff City Council). Each will serve 2 years.
- 3.4 In addition, the forum accepted an offer of monitoring officer support from Cardiff City Council. That person will advise the Chair and help to prepare reports that

require legal input.

- 3.5 Feedback and actions arising from the meeting can be found attached at Appendix 3. The Forum considered the duty on group leaders to promote ethical behaviour amongst the members of their group and listened to existing practice from amongst the members. Although practice varies slightly across authorities there was no significant deviation from the practice adopted at RCT (as agreed and reported at the last Standards Committee meeting.
- 3.6 The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales, Michelle Morris, also gave a presentation. The notes/slides of her presentation are attached at Appendix 4.
- 3.7 The next meeting of the forum will be at the end of June. The agenda for that meeting will be set at the June meeting of the Monitoring Officers' Group. Does the Committee have any suggestions for items it would wish to see considered by the Forum at any of its future meetings?

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The support for the Forum will be provided by the WLGA and voluntarily by monitoring officers within the constituent local authorities.

#### **5. CONSULTATION IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 None required.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**25 APRIL 2023**

**REPORT OF MONITORING OFFICER**

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**[NATIONAL FORUM FOR STANDARDS COMMITTEE CHAIRS – DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE – 18 NOVEMBER 2022](#)**

**Contact:** Mr. Andy Wilkins (Director of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer)