

## **Minutes of Standards Sub-Committee**

**13 May 2024**

### **Present:**

Gareth Young (Chairman)  
Councillor J. Button  
Councillor S.A. Dunn  
Councillor O. Rybinski

### **551/24 Disclosures of Interest**

There were none.

### **552/24 Exclusion of Press and Public**

The Panel considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following matter on the grounds that it was likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

The Panel in making its decision had regard to all circumstances and was satisfied that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

**RESOLVED** that in the interest of having a frank and open discussion about the matter, the press and public are excluded from the meeting.

### **553/24 Exempt Complaint Assessment Report against Councillor A**

The Panel considered the report of the Monitoring Officer setting out an allegation by way of a complaint received from an officer about Councillor A.

The Monitoring Officer and External Assessor (appointed to carry out the initial assessment) detailed the allegations that had been made and the key considerations for the assessment panel.

The External Assessor clarified that a separate whistleblowing matter referenced within the complaint assessment report would be dealt with separately under the Whistleblowing Policy.

The External Assessor further updated on a point of clarification within paragraph 2.4 of the main covering report.

The Panel went on to consider the complaint having regard to the Assessment Criteria.

The Panel then went on to consider the options open to it:

- (a) the Panel is able to ask the Monitoring Officer to direct that the complaint is investigated;
- (b) to direct the Monitoring Officer to take other appropriate action short of a formal investigation, for instance trying to secure an apology;
- (c) alternatively the Panel can decide to take no action in respect of the complaint; this may be where the complaint appears to be trivial, vexatious, malicious, politically motivated or tit-for-tat.

The Panel also had regard to advice from the Independent Person, and noted that the complaint was not one that the Council would not normally refer for investigation.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Monitoring Officer be directed to refer the complaint for investigation.