

AWDURDOD TÂN CANOLBARTH A GORLLEWIN CYMRU



MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AUTHORITY

NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE AT ITS NEXT MEETING

**COFNODION
CYFARFOD Y PWYLLGOR SAFONAU**

Pencadlys Y Gwasanaeth Tân, Heol Llwyn Pisgwydd
Caerfyrddin
29 Tachwedd 2010

**MINUTES
OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING**

held at Fire Service Headquarters, Lime Grove Avenue,
Carmarthen
29 November 2010

2.30 – 3.10

57% PRESENOLDEB/ATTENDANCE

Presennol yn y Cyfarfod/Present at Meeting:

CADEIRYDD/CHAIR: G Morgan

AELODAU/MEMBERS: S Fox
Cyng/Cllrs: R Llewellyn, A Davies

YMDDIHEURIADAU/APOLOGIES: M Howells, R Martin
Cyng/Cllrs J Holmes

YN BRESENNOL /IN ATTENDANCE: D Daycock

1 DECLARATION BY MEMBERS OF ANY PERSONAL INTERESTS

Members present declared an interest in their own Authorities

2 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS / PERSONAL MATTERS

The Chair, Gerwyn Morgan, welcomed the Clerk, Dave Daycock, to his first meeting of the Standards Committee and wished him all the best in his new role as Clerk and Monitoring Officer to the Fire Authority.

The Clerk reported that this would be the last meeting for both the Chair and Vice Chair of the Standards Committee as their tenure of office had come to an end. Both Gerwyn Morgan and Sue Fox had been in Office since 2001 when the Standards Committee had been formed and they were thanked for the professionalism and diligence which they had brought to their role. The Clerk presented them with a small token of appreciation on behalf of the Fire Authority and wished them well in the future.

It was noted that an advertisement for two replacement Members had been placed in the Western Mail with a closing date of 10th December 2010.

3 TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4th FEBRUARY 2010

The minutes of the meeting held on 4TH February 2010 were received and approved as a true record.

4 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE STANDARDS CONFERENCE WALES 2010

The Standards Committee was represented at the Standards Conference held in Cardiff City Hall on the 14th October 2010 by Cllr Andrea Davies, Dave Daycock, Clerk to the Fire Authority/Monitoring Officer and Jacqui Maunder, Head of the Corporate Communication & Member Support departments and Deputy Monitoring Officer.

The Conference was recognised as an important learning opportunity for Members of Standards Committees and this year's theme was putting "theory into practice".

Councillor Andrea Davies expressed her concerns that there was a possibility that Standards Committee's in England would be abolished together with the requirement of the Code of Conduct should a Bill currently going through the House of Commons be approved. It was agreed to monitor this development with a view to bringing a report to the next meeting for further discussion.

Overall, those who attended the Conference believed it was a beneficial training and development opportunity for Standards Committee Members

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that

The Standards Committee continue to attend the Standards Conference Wales in 2011.

5 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES GUIDANCE- THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN WALES

Following the Ombudsman's consultation in early 2010 on the statutory guidance under section 68 of the Local Government Act 2000 in respect of the Model Code of Conduct the Ombudsman published his final guidance The Code of Conduct for Members of Local Authorities in Wales – Guidance from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales in April 2010. The Ombudsman encouraged Monitoring Officers to deliver training on the Code and the accompanying slides will form the basis for future training.

The Clerk reported that he would shortly be attending a meeting of ACSes where the Ombudsman's report would be discussed as there were a number of judgements which Members believed to require further discussion. He would provide a report for the next meeting of the Standards Committee.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that

The report of the Public Services Ombudsman be received and noted

6 TO RECEIVE THE CUSTOMER FEEDBACK ANALYSIS FROM APRIL – SEPTEMBER 2010

Consideration was given to the 6 monthly update on complaints and compliments received during the period 1st April 2010 to 30th September 2010.

A total of 10 complaints were received, of which 2 were upheld and were generally in respect of conduct and operational matters. Members noted that the standard of complaint acknowledgement and investigation performance remained generally good.

Members were informed that a total of 55 compliments were received which covered a wide range of activities undertaken by the Service.

The previous 6 month reporting period October 2009 – March 2010 reported 16 complaints and 42 compliments.

Councillor Andrea Davies requested further information relating to Complaint Number 0168510 which would be passed onto her following the meeting.

The Chair requested the Clerk write to the Chief Fire Officer on behalf of the Standards Committee noting the pleasing number of compliments which had been

received by the Service.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that:

The report be acknowledged