

## Standards Committee

15 April 2026

### Present (in Person):

Mr J Daniels, Councillor Dr S Hancock MBE, Mr J Hogg MBE and Mr R Lewis.

### Present (Remotely):

Mr P Davies and Mr L Freeman.

### Officers in Attendance

Michael Kent (Monitoring Officer), Tegryn Jones (Chief Executive), Caroline Llewellyn (Minutes)

(Llanion Park, Pembroke Dock: 2.00pm – 2.45pm)

#### **1. Personal Matters**

The Chair welcomed Rhodri Lewis and Lyndon Freeman to their first meeting of the Committee and also noted that Mr John Hogg, who had formerly been an independent member of the Committee had resigned from that role as he had become a Member of the National Park Authority and had been appointed to the Committee as a Welsh Government appointed Member. He had replaced Dr R Plummer whose term of office on the Authority had come to an end and the Chair paid tribute to her contribution over a number of years.

#### **2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M James.

#### **3. Election of Deputy Chair**

On the proposal of Mr Daniels, seconded by Councillor Dr Hancock, Mr R Lewis was elected as the Deputy Chair.

#### **4. Disclosures of interest**

There were no disclosures of interest.

#### **5. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2025 were presented for confirmation and signature.

On the proposal of Mr Hogg, seconded by Mr Lewis it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2025 be confirmed and signed.



## 6. Report of the meeting of the Standards Committees' Chairs' Forum Wales held on the 26 January 2026

The Chair noted that this was an excellent forum for educating and sharing good practice. With regard to Hearings procedures, the Monitoring Officer confirmed that the Authority had adopted its procedure for dealing with allegations referred to the Standards Committee in June 2025 and this had been circulated to the Committee.

The Chair noted that the next meeting of the Forum would take place in June and that he hoped to attend.

**Noted.**

## 6. Annual Report of the Monitoring Officer 2025/26

The Chair welcomed the Monitoring Officer who presented his annual report which featured information regarding the terms of reference for the Committee, Training, both for Standards Committee Members and for Members more generally on the Code of Conduct, Complaints, Trends, Local Resolution Protocol, Dispensations, the Unacceptable Actions by Complainants Policy, the Annual Report of the Ombudsman and the consultation by the Ombudsman into the Operation of the Code of Conduct.

The section of the report on Trends highlighted the concerning increase in the use of Artificial Intelligence in complaints and information requests received by the Authority, which could be far-reaching and time-consuming for officers to deal with. This was acknowledged to be widespread in other organisations also. A Member asked about the capacity of officers to respond to multiple requests and officers acknowledged that as a small Authority there could sometimes be issues of staff capacity which had to be managed.

On the proposal of Councillor Dr Hancock, seconded by Mr Hogg it was **RESOLVED** that;

- i) the report be noted;
- ii) the report be agreed as the basis for the Standards Committee's Annual Report to be submitted to the National Park Authority in accordance with the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

## 7. Thanks

As this was potentially the Chair's last meeting, as his term of office came to an end in October, the Monitoring Officer thanked Mr Daniels for his work on the Standards Committee.

