

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

13th January 2025

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES – MR C GRIFFITHS

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All

Town and Community Council Code of Conduct Matters

Purpose of the Report

1. To draw to Members attention the role of the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council's ("the Council") Standards Committee and to suggest a meeting in the 2025/2026 Civic Year with Chairs of Town and Community Councils to discuss the remit of the Standards Committee and how the Standards Committee can assist Town and Community Councillors in discharging their own personal duties

Background

2. Part III of the Local Government Act 2000 introduced a new Ethical Framework for Councils. As part of this framework, the Council has a Standards Committee. This Committee is also responsible for standards functions in relation to the Town and Community Councils (and their Members) in the area of the County Borough Council.
3. Another critical part of the Ethical Framework is the Code of Conduct for Members. One of the functions of the Standards Committee is to assist the Council and the Town and Community Councils in securing compliance with the Code.
4. Previously Standards Committee have met with Clerks of Town and Community Councils and issued a variety of questionnaires to highlight specific queries. As part of its 2024/2025 Annual Report, members of the Standards Committee wished to embark on further engagement with elected members in order to dispel the myths of the Standards Committee and it is suggested that one way to help discharge this objective could be to arrange a meeting with a cross section of Town and Community Council Chairs to further discuss how the Standards Committee can help support Town and Community Councils in the area of standards and ethical behaviour.

Financial Impact

5. There are no financial impacts associated with this Report.

Integrated Impact Assessment

6. There is no requirement to undertake an integrated impact assessment for this report.

Workforce Impacts

7. There are no workforce impacts associated with this Report

Legal Impacts

8. The Standards Committee is governed by the obligations set out in the Local Government Act 2000 and its composition and running is as set out in the Standards Committee (Wales) Regulations 2001.

Consultation

9. There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

Recommendations

10. That Members agree to convene a meeting of Town and Community Council Chairs to discuss how the Standard Committee can help ensure compliance with the standards regime and ethical behaviours in Town and Community Councils.

Reason for Report

11. That Members of the Standards Committee are aware of the remit of the Standards Committee and the legislative background in which the Standards Committee operates

Appendices

12. None

List of Background Papers

13. The Constitution of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

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