

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

23 November 2018

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES – C.GRIFFITHS

Matter for Information

Wards Affected: All

The Adjudication Panel for Wales – Guidance on the imposition of sanctions

Purpose of the Report

1. To draw to Members attention the sanctions guidance issued by the Adjudication Panel for Wales which is came into force on 1 September 2018 as the subject matter of this guidance is relevant to the remit of the Standards Committee.

Background

2. Guidance has been issued by the Adjudication Panel for Wales (“the APW) to assist the APW’s case, appeal and interim case tribunals, when considering the appropriate sanction to impose on a Member found to have breach their authority’s code of conduct.
3. The guidance also describes the role of the ethical framework and code of conduct in promoting high public standards, among other persons, Members of local government
4. A copy of the APW’s guidance is attached at Appendix 1 for information.
5. Whilst the guidance is intended primarily for the APW, the principles which underpin the guidance are relevant to work of the Standards Committee, and Members are invited to take account of its provisions. In this regard, the Standards Committee has the power to censure or suspend any member referred to who has breached the Code of Conduct for a period of 6 months, the guidance provides a useful tool identifying relevant factors when deciding whether any sanction should be imposed should any cases be referred to the Standards Committee in future.

Financial Impact

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

Equality Impact Assessment

7. There are no equality impacts associated with this Report

Workforce Impacts

8. There are no workforce impacts associated with this Report

Legal Impacts

9. The ethical framework of Members is as derived from the Local Government Act 2000 and the Members Code of Conduct is as set out in the Constitution of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (“the Council”) as created by the Conduct of Members (Model Code of Conduct) (Wales) Order 2001.

Consultation

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

Recommendations

11. That Members note the guidance issued by the Adjudication Panel for Wales regarding compliance with the Members Code of Conduct

Appendices

12. Appendix 1 – APW’s Sanctions Guidance.

List of Background Papers

13. The Constitution of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council incorporating the Members Code of Conduct

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