



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot  
Neath Port Talbot Council

## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

### **REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES –C.GRIFFITHS**

**22 November 2019**

#### **Matter for Information**

**Wards Affected:** All Wards

#### **Summary of cases undertaken by the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales**

#### **Purpose of the Report:**

1. To provide Members with a summary of cases that have been undertaken by the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales (“the Ombudsman”).

#### **Executive Summary:**

2. The Ombudsman publishes a Code of Conduct Casebook quarterly which contains the summaries of all reports issued under section 69(4) of the Local Government Act 2000 relating to breaches of the Members Code of Conduct to which all elected members of County Borough Councils and Town and Community Councils must comply.

## **Background:**

3. Members will note that where the Ombudsman decides that a complaint against a County Borough Councillor or Town and Community Councillor should be investigated, there are four findings to which the Ombudsman can arrive at:
  - (a) that there is no evidence that there has been a breach of the authority's code of conduct;
  - (b) that no action needs to be taken in respect of the matters that were subject to the investigation;
  - (c) that the matter be referred to the authority's monitoring officer for consideration by the standards committee;
  - (d) that the matter be referred to the President of the Adjudication Panel for Wales for adjudication by a tribunal (this generally happens in more serious cases).
3. In the circumstances of (c) and (d) above, the Ombudsman is required to submit the investigation report to the standards committee or a tribunal of the Adjudication Panel for Wales and it is for them to consider the evidence found by the Ombudsman, together with any defence put forward by the member concerned. It is also for them to determine whether a breach has occurred and, if so, what penalty (if any) should be imposed.
4. The Code of Conduct Casebook (attached as Appendix 1) contains the summaries of those cases for which the hearings by the standards committee or Adjudication Panel for Wales have been concluded and the outcome of the hearing is known. The Casebook covers October to December 2017.

## **Financial Impacts:**

5. No implications.

**Integrated Impact Assessment:**

6. An Integrated Impact Assessment is not required for this report.

**Valleys Communities Impacts:**

7. No implications

**Workforce Impacts:**

8. No implications

**Legal Impacts:**

9. No implications

**Consultation:**

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

**Recommendations:**

11. That Members note the findings in the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales Code of Conduct Casebook

**Appendices:**

12. Appendix 1 – Public Service Ombudsman for Wales Code of Conduct Casebook

**List of Background Papers:**

13. None

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