

# **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**6 March 2020**

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

#### **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. Members have been invited to attend Town/Community Council meetings in recent months in order to observe Town/Community Councils and the views of members of the Standards Committee will be discussed at the Standards Committee of the 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020 as part of this report.
5. Nevertheless to ensure that the Standards Committee can fully discharge its function in respect of Town/Community Councils, the Monitoring Officer is of

the view that it would be wise to obtain some conduct related information from each Town/Community Council, which can form the basis of discussion at the next Standards Committee and also to allow members of the Standards Committee to determine what specific areas they would like to consider as part of their forward work programme.

6. To that extent a questionnaire has been produced which is annexed to this report at Appendix 1 for members of the Standards Committee to consider and a discussion is invited on whether this covers the issues that members of the Standards Committee wish to consider.

### **Financial Impact**

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

### **Integrated Impact Assessment**

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

### **Workforce Impacts**

9. There are no workforce impacts associated with this Report

### **Legal Impacts**

10. 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**

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

### **Recommendations**

12. That Members discuss the findings from their recent observations of the Town/Community Councils and approve the issue of the Code of Conduct questionnaire annexed at Appendix 1 of this report for issue to Town/Community Clerks and a report be brought back to Members at the next Standards Committee

### **Reason for Report**

13. 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**

14. Appendix 1 – Draft Questionnaire to Town/Community Councils

### **List of Background Papers**

15. The Constitution of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

### **Officer Contact**

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