



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot  
Neath Port Talbot Council

## **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL**

### **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

#### **REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES – MR CRAIG GRIFFITHS**

**13 July 2022**

#### **Matter for Decision**

**Wards Affected:** All Wards

**Code of Conduct Training to elected members following Local Government elections.**

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

1. To provide an overview to members of the training on code of conduct matters provided following local government elections in May 2022

#### **Background:**

2. In May and June 2022, local government elections saw 60 members elected to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council. Of these 60 members, 19 were newly elected who had not served as a County Borough Councillor previously.

3. The Members Code of Conduct requires all members of these authorities to make a formal declaration to observe the Code. Failure to declare will result in a member ceasing to hold the office of Councillor. All 60 members have signed their declaration to confirm their acceptance of the Code of Conduct.
4. Training was subsequently provided by the Monitoring Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer which covered the following topics:
  - a. Ethical Governance and its meaning
  - b. The Members Code of Conduct (including interests and predetermination)
  - c. Gifts and Hospitality
  - d. The Officer and Member Protocol
  - e. Social Media and the Code of Conduct
  - f. Policing the Code of Conduct
5. A copy of the training materials are included at Appendix 1 of this report.
6. Hybrid training sessions where members could attend virtually or in person were undertaken on:
  - a. Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022 10am
  - b. Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022 2pm
  - c. Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022 4pm
  - d. Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022 10am
7. All sessions were recorded and issued to members following the training for future watching.
8. To date, 53 of the 60 members have attended a training session and 100% of the 19 newly elected members have attended this training.

9. Future training sessions will be offered at the end of July 2022, with refresher training scheduled for the end of 2022.
10. A copy of the Code of Conduct, Public Service Ombudsman for Wales Guidance, Members Gifts and Hospitality Protocol and the training materials were issued to members by email on the 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

**Financial Impacts:**

11. No implications.

**Integrated Impact Assessment:**

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

**Valleys Communities Impacts:**

13. No implications

**Workforce Impacts:**

14. No implications

**Legal Impacts:**

15. There are no legal impacts associated with this report.

**Consultation:**

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

**Recommendations:**

17. That Members note the training provided to all 60 elected members of Neath Port Talbot Council and the take up of training opportunities.

**Appendices:**

18. Appendix 1 – Code of Conduct Training

**List of Background Papers:**

19. None

**Officer Contact:**

Mr Craig Griffiths  
Head of Legal and Democratic Services  
Telephone 01639 763767  
Email: c.griffiths2@npt.gov.uk