

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

31 January 2023

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

Matter for Information

Wards Affected: All

Recent decision of the Adjudication Panel for Wales relating to Members Code of Conduct Breaches

Purpose of the Report

1. To draw to Members attention to recent decisions of the Adjudication Panel for Wales as the subject matter of this reports falls within the remit of the Standards Committee.

Background

2. The Adjudication Panel for Wales (APW) deals with the more serious code of conduct breach cases referred directly to it by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) and any appeals made from decisions by local Standards Committees. Attached are 3 recent decisions by the APW for the committee to consider.
3. These are cases relating to:
 - Former Councillor Paul Dowson
 - Former Councillor Caryl Vaughan
 - Former Councillor Gordon Lewis
4. The Committee will note that in all 3 cases the individual in question was no longer a serving councillor but that the APW still imposed periods of disqualification ranging from 1-3 years. The reason for bringing it to Members attention today is that it provides some useful guidance with some practical

examples on how the Adjudication Panel for Wales feels the Members Code of Conduct maybe breached and the possible consequences this might have.

Financial Impact

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

Integrated Impact Assessment

6. There are no impacts associated with this Report

Workforce Impacts

7. There are no workforce impacts associated with this Report

Legal Impacts

8. 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

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

Recommendations

10. That Members note the report of the Adjudication Panel for Wales regarding compliance with the Members Code of Conduct.

Appendices

11. Appendix 1 – Decision of the Adjudication Panel for Wales

List of Background Papers

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

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