



STANDARDS COMMITTEE

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

11th April 2023

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

Procedure for Conducting Disciplinary Hearings

Purpose of the Report:

1. To adopt the Procedure for Conducting Disciplinary Hearings set out in Appendix 1 of this Report

Background:

2. Part 3 Local Government Act 2000 (the Act) enables the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales to require Standards Committees to determine whether a councillor or co-opted member has breached the code of conduct, where the Ombudsman considers that the facts of the alleged breach do not warrant an immediate reference to the Adjudication Panel for Wales.
3. The attached draft procedure is an updated version from the previous version adopted by the Council. This is to ensure it reflects principles such as hearings being conducted in Welsh, should the Councillor choose and to further expand on the possibility that a hearing could be conducted by written representations and to enable the possibility of a hearing being conducted virtually via Microsoft TEAMS.

4. Similar procedures adopted by other Councils and the procedures adopted by the Adjudication Panel for Wales and aims to set out clearly to the committee, officers, and councillors and their representatives, the process that will be followed in the event that a disciplinary breach is referred to the committee for consideration.

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. There are no legal impacts associated with this report.

Consultation:

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

Recommendations:

11. That Members approve the procedure for conducting disciplinary hearings set out in Appendix 1 of this report.

Appendices:

12. Appendix 1 – Procedure for conducting disciplinary hearings.

List of Background Papers:

13. None

Officer Contact:

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