



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

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

23rd April 2024

Matter for Information

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 to elected members and for members to consider whether any additional matters should be considered.

Background:

2. The Local Government Act 2000 created a new ethical framework for local government in Wales. It created a power for the National Assembly for Wales (now known as the Welsh Parliament or Senedd Cymru) to issue a model Code of Conduct to apply to members and co-opted members (with

voting rights) of all relevant authorities in Wales. This power was transferred to the Welsh Ministers by the Government of Wales Act 2006. On 1 April 2016, Welsh Ministers issued a number of revisions to the current Model Code of Conduct (issued in 2008) which all relevant authorities were required to adopt.

3. Authorities were required to adopt the Code in its model form in its entirety, but could make additions to the Code, provided these were consistent with the Model. This is intended to give certainty to members and the public as to what standards are expected. It helps to ensure consistency throughout relevant authorities, avoiding confusion for members on more than one authority and for the public.
4. Elected members are required to sign up to the Members Code of Conduct as part of their declaration of acceptance of office. It is important to recognise that the Code's primary purpose is not to restrict the way in which individuals act as a member, rather it is intended to help and guide in maintaining appropriate standards of conduct when serving the community. In turn, it provides reassurance to the public and helps build their trust in, and respect for, their local representatives.
5. A copy of the Neath Port Talbot Council Code of Conduct is attached at Appendix 1
6. To assist in members meeting their obligations, detailed training is provided to elected members in the form at Appendix 2.
7. Members are asked to consider the training package provided and whether they feel additional information or alternative approaches could be considered to assist members in meeting their Code of Conduct obligations.

Financial Impacts:

8. No implications.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

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

Valleys Communities Impacts:

10. No implications

Workforce Impacts:

11. No implications

Legal Impacts:

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

Consultation:

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

Recommendations:

14. That Members note the training provided to all 60 elected members of Neath Port Talbot Council and consider any amendments or additions to the training.

Appendices:

15. Appendix 1 – Code of Conduct
Appendix 2 -Code of Conduct Training

List of Background Papers:

16. None

Officer Contact:

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