



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 Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

Standards Committee Annual Report 2023-2024

Purpose of the Report:

1. To seek approval from members of the Standards Committee of the draft annual report for the year 2023-2024 and members be provided with the opportunity to comment or amend the draft annual report prior to its consideration by Full Council.

Background:

2. There is now a legal requirement (pursuant to the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 for Standards Committees to make an annual report to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council on the standards regime within Neath Port Talbot.
3. The report must
 - (a) describe how the Standards Committee has discharged its functions during the preceding financial year;
 - (b) include a summary of reports and recommendations made or referred to the Standards Committee by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales relating to the investigation of alleged

- breaches of the member code of conduct, and any subsequent action taken by the committee;
- (c) include a summary of notices given to the Standards Committee by the Adjudication Panel for Wales, relating to the Panel's decisions on possible breaches of the member code of conduct; and
 - (d) include the Standards Committee's assessment of how political group leaders have complied with their new duty to promote high standards of conduct.
4. The requirement to make an annual report is intended to ensure there is a regular and consistent approach to the reporting and consideration of standards of conduct by elected members. This is intended to promote local ownership and collective responsibility by members for ensuring high standards of conduct within their authority.
5. Neath Port Talbot Council must consider the report and any recommendations made by its standards committee within three months of its receipt. The consideration of a report will be a matter of public record through the published minutes of the meeting.
6. A copy of this report (once approved by Full Council) will be shared with the following:
- (a) All elected members of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council;
 - (b) All Town and Community Councils;
 - (c) Public Service Ombudsman for Wales
 - (d) Audit Wales
7. Following discussions between officers and the Chair of the Standards Committee, the attached draft annual report of the Standards Committee has been prepared and is enclosed at Appendix 1.
8. The Standards Committee is requested to consider the draft report and make such changes as it considers appropriate, prior to the presentation of the report at Full Council.

Financial Impacts:

9. No implications.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

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

Valleys Communities Impacts:

11. No implications

Workforce Impacts:

12. No implications

Legal Impacts:

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

Consultation:

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

Recommendations:

15. That Members approve the draft Annual Report of the Standards Committee (with any amendments as suggested) and that delegated authority be given to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (in consultation with the Chair of the Standards Committee) to amend the report as may be necessary to reflect any updated complaint figures received.

Appendices:

16. Appendix 1- Draft Annual Report

List of Background Papers:

17. None

Officer Contact:

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