



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

COUNCIL

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

26th July 2024

Matter for Information

Wards Affected: All Wards

Standards Committee Annual Report 2023-2024

Purpose of the Report:

1. To consider and receive the Standards Committee Annual Report for 2023/2024.

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 received 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. A copy of the 2023/2024 Annual Report is enclosed at Appendix 1.

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 Annual Report of the Standards Committee for 2023/2024.

Appendices:

15. Appendix 1- Annual Report

List of Background Papers:

16. None

Officer Contact:

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