



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

22 APRIL 2024

ADJUDICATION PANEL FOR WALES – RECENT TRIBUNAL DECISIONS

INFORMATION REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To allow Members the opportunity to consider recent decisions made by the Adjudication Panel for Wales (APW).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended the Committee considers the recent decisions made by the Adjudication Panel for Wales (as appended to the report); and
- 2.2 Determines whether there are any possible messages or lessons to be learnt arising out of the decisions that could be communicated as part of future training for Members on the Code of Conduct.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The ethical framework set out under Part III of the Local Government Act 2000 included the establishment of the Adjudication Panel for Wales (APW) as an independent, judicial body with powers to form tribunals to deal with alleged breaches of the Members' Code of Conduct. The operation of the Panel is governed by Regulations issued by the Welsh Government.
- 3.2 The APW issues decision notices following the conclusion of the cases it considers and in that respect Members will find copies of the following decision appended to the report:

Appendix 1 – APW/0003/2023-024/AT – Former Councillor Louise Thomas (Mumbles Community Council);

Appendix 2 - APW/0005/2023-024/AT – Councillor David Metcalfe (Cefn Community Council); and

Appendix 3 - APW/0002/2023-024/CT - Former Councillor Emma McNamara (Mumbles Community Council).

- 3.3 The Committee may find it helpful to consider such decisions and the approach adopted by the APW in formulating its decision and sanctions (where relevant) in light of its own role when conducting Code of Conduct hearings.
- 3.4 The Committee may also wish to consider whether there are any possible messages or lessons to be learnt arising out of APW Panel decisions that could be communicated as part of future training for Members on the Code of Conduct.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 There are no consultation implications arising from this report.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

7. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

Freestanding Matter

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