

Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council

REPORT TO: Ethics and Standards Committee

Title: Monitoring Officer Code of Conduct Update- Quarter 4

DATE: 05 June 2023

LOCATION: Hybrid

Purpose: Information

Background

Committee will recall that the Monitoring officer reported on the Quarter 3 at the meeting held on the 25 January 2023.

Committee:

- requested to be informed in future reports of any trends that had increased/decreased
- noted the increase in recent years of trends relating to social media and online abuse.

Current position

Monitoring Officer Update-Q 3 & 4 (September 2022-March 2023)

The nature of complaints received during Q3 &4 is shown attached **(App.1)**.

Trends

County Council

- Increase in Councillors subject to Police investigation

Town & Community Councils

- Increase in Councillors subject to Police investigation
- Increase in Councillors failing to declare conviction or self-report to PSOW

RECOMMENDATION (S):

To note the contents of the report

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION (S):

To inform Committee of complaints activity and recent trends

Contact Name: Dana Jones
Designation: Democratic and Standards Officer
Date of Report: 04 May 2023
Acronyms:

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Appendix 1

2022-23

County Council

- Social media postings-inappropriate comments
- Breach of confidentiality
- Poor culture/attitude
- Swearing
- Aggressive demeanour towards member of public
- Lack of respect/ consideration/ courtesy for officers
- Inappropriate conduct
- Failure to declare interests
- Discrimination-of minority group
- Disrespectful, impolite or offensive language by Councillors in public meetings
- Overstepping role
- Unrealistic demands on officers
- Demanding behaviour
- Perceived failure to declare interest
- Inappropriate sexual conduct
- Harassment
- Stalking
- Intimidation of officers
- Using role of councillor to advantage
- Bringing office or authority into disrepute
- Perceived failure to act
- Disclosure of confidential information-social media/public meeting

Town and Community Councils

- Poor relationship with clerk
- Intimidation of clerk
- Lack of respect /consideration towards clerk
- Poor relationship with fellow councillors
- Subject to criminal /police investigation
- Social media-inappropriate postings/comments
- Criminal conviction
- Lack of consideration and respect in meetings
- Swearing
- Spreading false information about fellow councillors or clerk
- Failure to declare interests
- Failure to act in accordance with Code following declaration of interests

Appendix 1

- Criminal conviction
- Failure to heed advice
- Lack of impartiality
- Inappropriate use of Council resources
- subject to Safeguarding procedures
- subject to Police investigation

Appendix 1