

## **Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council**

**REPORT TO:** Ethics and Standards Committee

**Title:** Monitoring Officer Code of Conduct Update- Quarter 3 & 4 2023-2024

**DATE:** 6 March 2024

**LOCATION:** Hybrid

**Purpose:** Information

### **Background**

Committee will recall that the Monitoring Officer reported Q1& 2 23/24 on 15/11/23.

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**

**The Monitoring Officer Update-Q 3& 4 to date (October 2023-December 2023/January 2024)** on Code of Conduct activity and recent trends and statistics is shown below.

### **County Council**

- Decrease-lack of respect and consideration to officers
- Increase-lack of respect and consideration to other Councillors
- Decrease: Lack of respect and consideration to officers in public meetings

Statistics:

- APW interim suspension x1:6m-expired 9/1/24.  
Councillor resigned. Awaiting PSOW final report.

- Councillors subject to enforcement investigation:x1
  - Self-referral to MO:0
  - Self-referral to PSOW:0
  - Councillor apology in public meeting:x1
  - PSOW Decision Notices Q4 to date:x1

### **Town & Community Councils**

- Increase in complaints relating to behaviour- lack of respect and consideration
- Increase- lack of respect and consideration towards members of public in public meeting eg offensive/inflammatory comments, falling short of breach of Code due to enhanced protection afforded by member's freedom of expression by Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Statistics:

- Councillor failing to self-report conviction to PSOW:x1
- PSOW referral to Ethics and Standards Committee for initial determination hearing:x1
- PSOW Decision Notices Q4 to date:x4 reported

### **RECOMMENDATION (S):**

**To note the contents of the report**

### **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION (S):**

**To inform Committee of Code of Conduct activity and recent trends**

**Contact Name:** Elin Prysor  
**Designation:** Monitoring Officer  
**Date of Report:** 15/1/24

