

CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Ethics and Standards Committee

Date of meeting: 19 July 2024

Title: Update on Adjudication Panel for Wales matters

Purpose of the report: To update the Committee on Adjudication Panel for Wales matters

Background

The Adjudication Panel for Wales (APW) is an independent tribunal that has been set up to determine alleged breaches against an authority's statutory Code of Conduct by elected and co-opted members of Welsh County, County Borough and Community Councils, Fire and National Park Authorities.

Since Committee's last meeting on 06 March 2024 the following Items have been issued by the APW:

References from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales:

1)Former Councillor Emma McNamara-Mumbles Community Council

[apw-decision-report-mcnamara_0.pdf \(gov.wales\)](#)

Nature of allegation: Breach of paragraph 6(1)(a)

Hearing: 18 March 2024

Tribunal Decision: No breach of paragraph 6(1)(a)

2)Councillor Bernie Attridge

Flintshire County Council Connah's Quay Town Council

[apw-decision-report-bernie-attridge.pdf \(gov.wales\)](#)

Nature of allegation: Breach of paragraphs 4(b), 4(c), 4(d), 5(a), 6(1)(a), 7(a), 11(2)(a) & 14(1)(d)

Tribunal Decision: Breach of paragraphs 4(b), 4(c), 5(a), 6(1)(a) and 7(a). No breach of paragraphs 4(d), 11(2)(a) and 14(1)(d)

The Case Tribunal unanimously concluded that the appropriate sanction in all of the circumstances was for the Respondent to be suspended for a period of 4 months from acting as a member of the relevant authorities or, if shorter, the remainder of his term of office

Appeals against Standards Committee decisions:

1)Former Cllr Louise Thomas -Mumbles Community Council

[Panel Dyfarnu Cymru \(gov.wales\)](http://gov.wales)

“The Appeal tribunal’s decision is to endorse the decision of the Standards Committee that;

9.8.1 Former Councillor Thomas had breached Paragraphs 6(1)(a) and 6 (1)(d) of the Code of Conduct of Mumbles Community Council.

9.8.2 That former Councillor Louise Thomas be formally censured pursuant to Regulation 9 of the Local Government Investigations (Functions of Monitoring Officers and Standards Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2001 (as amended) for breaching paragraphs 6 (1)(a) and 6 (1)(d) of the Code of Conduct. 9.8.3 That had former Councillor Louise Thomas still been a serving Community Councillor, the Appeal Tribunal would have recommended that the Standards Committee impose a 6-month suspension, which is the maximum period of suspension that the Committee could impose.”

Wellbeing of Future Generations:

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If, not, please state why.

No

Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment:

Long term:	N/A
Collaboration:	N/A
Involvement:	N/A
Prevention:	N/A
Integration:	N/A

Recommendation(s):

To note the contents of the report.

Contact Name: Elin Prysor

Designation: Monitoring Officer

Date of Report: 7/6/24

Acronyms: