

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
21/11/2022

CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLIANCE BY TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS 2021-2022

Recommendations / key decisions required:

To note the results of the data gathering exercise

Reasons:

The monitoring of code compliance forms part of the committee's remit

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted NO

Cabinet Decision Required NO

Council Decision Required YES

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER: - Councillor Linda Evans

Directorate:

Name of Head of Service:

Linda Rees-Jones

Report Author:

Robert Edgecombe

Designations:

Head of Administration
and Law

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
STANDARDS COMMITTEE
21/11/22**

**CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLIANCE BY TOWN AND COMMUNITY
COUNCILLORS 2021-2022**

In accordance with the previous practice of the Committee letters were sent to all Town and Community Councils in April 2022 asking them to provide information regarding code of conduct compliance during the preceding municipal year (1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022).

Reminder letters were sent in May 2022 to those councils that had not responded and in July 2022 legal department staff also telephoned the remaining councils who had not provided data. As at the beginning of August only 6 out of 72 Councils had not responded and arrangements were made for those 6 councils to again be contacted by telephone.

Due to the request by committee members that the data be presented in a more accessible way than in the past, officers have utilised Snap Survey software to collate the responses received and present them in the attached report. Sheet 1 sets out the responses to all 3 questions in table form, sheet 2 deals with declarations of interest and sheet 3 code training. If members agree, it is suggested that for next year's data exercise councils be sent a link to the Snap Survey and that they complete the online questionnaire themselves.

Members will note that the survey does not address the issue of Code of Conduct complaints.

Data provided by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales shows that during the period 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022 a total of 4 code of conduct complaints were concluded against Town and Community Councillors from Carmarthenshire none of which required any action to be taken against the councillors concerned.

These figures do not however include complaints made and/or investigated but not concluded during the period of this report.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: LRees-Jones

Head of Administration and Law

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: L Rees-Jones

HEAD OF ADMINISTRATION AND LAW

1. Scrutiny Committee None

2. Local Member(s) None

3. Community / Town Council All Town and Community Councils have been consulted as outlined in the Executive Summary

4. Relevant Partners None

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations None

**CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S)
AWARE/CONSULTED**

No

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Legal Department File	DPSC-196	County Hall
Legal Department File	DPSC-200	County Hall