

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO STANDARDS COMMITTEE

18 FEBRUARY 2021

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

ADJUDICATION PANEL FOR WALES – SANCTION GUIDANCE

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To apprise Members of the Sanction Guidance received from the Adjudication Panel for Wales (APW) which has recently been revised and modernised.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objective under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:-

Smarter use of resources – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

- 3.1 Following a recent consultation to improve and modernise its Sanctions Guidance, a new Sanctions Guidance has been published by the APW. The primary purpose of the Guidance is to assist the APW's case tribunals, when considering the appropriate sanction to impose where a Councillor has been found to have breached the Code of Conduct.
- 3.2 It also seeks to fulfil the wider role of supporting all those, including local Standards Committees, in maintaining, promoting and adjudicating on the Code. The Guidance is a living document that will be updated and revised as the need arises, following consultation.

4. Current situation / proposal

- 4.1 The APW have issued the Guidance pursuant to its powers under Section 75(10) of the Local Government Act 2000. The Sanctions Guidance is attached for Members' information at **Appendix 1** to this report.
- 4.2 The Guidance describes: 1. The ethical framework for conduct of County and Town and Community Councillors; 2. The role of the APW; and 3. The approach of the APW's tribunals to sanctions, following a finding that the Code has been breached.

5. Effect upon policy framework & procedure rules

- 5.1 There is no effect upon policy framework and procedure rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 There are no equality implications arising from the report.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

7.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report.

7.2 Compliance with the Code of Conduct by members ensures the Council maintains a high standard of behaviour and conduct and thereby encouraging and promoting democracy throughout society thereby contributing to the following Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015:

- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
- A globally responsible Wales

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications, the report is for information only.

9. Recommendation

9.1 The Committee is asked to note the Sanctions Guidance issued by the APW attached as Appendix 1.

Kelly Watson

Chief Officer – Legal, HR and Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer
February 2021

Contact Officer: Kelly Watson,
Chief Officer – Legal, HR and Regulatory Services and
Monitoring Officer

Telephone: (01656) 643106

E-mail: Kelly.watson@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal Address: Civic Centre, Angel Street,
Bridgend, CF31 4WB

Background documents: None