

## **GWYNEDD COUNCIL STANDARDS COMMITTEE DECISION NOTICE**

**(Section 100C of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020)**

**8 December 2021**

**Virtual Meeting**

**Attendance:**

**Elected Members:** Councillors Beth Lawton and Dewi Roberts

**Independent Members:** Mr Aled Jones, Mr Hywel Eifion Jones, Miss Margaret E.Jones, Mr David Wareing and Dr Einir Young (Chair)

**Community Committee Member:** Mr Richard Parry Hughes

**Also in attendance:** On behalf of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales – Katrin Shaw (Chief Legal Adviser & Director of Investigations) and Leigh McAndrew (Investigating Officer). Gwynedd Council Officers - Sion Huws (Senior Solicitor – Corporate) and Eirian Roberts (Democracy Services Officer)

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<b>Date of STANDARDS COMMITTEE Meeting</b>	8 December 2021
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### **SUBJECT**

**Item 3: ALLEGATION OF A BREACH OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT REFERRED TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE BY THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES**

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### **DECISION**

- **In relation to the allegations of a breach of the code, the committee resolved that the member has failed to comply with Tywyn Town Council's Code of Conduct in the following way as he breached the following provisions:**
    - 4(a) You must carry out your duties with due regard to the principle that there should be equality of opportunity for all people regardless of gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, age or religion.**
    - 4(b) Treat others with respect and consideration.**
    - 4(c) You must not bully or harass anyone, including other members, council officers or members of the public.**
  - **With regard to Article Ten of the European Convention on Human Rights, the Standards Committee resolved that the comments go beyond political comments that would be protected by Article 10.**
  - **The Committee also concluded that the conduct was serious enough to breach Paragraph 6(1)(A) of the code, namely that no-one should behave in a way that could reasonably be regarded as bringing the office or the Authority into disrepute.**
  - **Having considered the seriousness of the conduct in question and having considered the relevant mitigating and aggravating factors, the Committee resolved that the Member should be censured, as this is the maximum sanction that the Committee can impose following the Member's resignation from the Council.**
  - **The Committee nevertheless wished to put on record that, except for his resignation from the Council, it was likely to have suspended the Member from the Council and to have done so for the maximum possible period.**
  - **The Committee also asks the Member to consider and reflect on his conduct, in particular the way he speaks and corresponds with others in any other current or**
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**future public role. The Committee also encourages him to take advantage of any training opportunities available in relation to the Code of Conduct for Members**

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**DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS**

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

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