

**Report To:** County Council

**Date of Meeting:** 9<sup>th</sup> December 2014

**Lead Member / Officer:** Gary Williams, Monitoring Officer

**Report Author:** Gary Williams, Monitoring Officer

**Title:** Appointments to Standards Committee

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**1. What is the report about?**

- 1.1 The report is about the appointment of an elected Member and independent member to fill vacancies that have arisen on the Council's Standards Committee.

**2. What is the reason for making this report?**

- 2.1 To appoint a County Councillor to the Standards Committee and to appoint Members of the Council to the Standards Committee Special Appointments Panel to be formed to consider applications from persons who wish to become an independent member of the Standards Committee.

**3. What are the Recommendations?**

- 3.1 That a Member of the Council be appointed to fill the vacancy for an elected Member on the Council's Standards Committee.
- 3.2 That a Member of the Council be appointed to the Standards Committee Special Appointments Panel

**4. Report details.**

- 4.1 The Standards Committee Regulations 2001, as amended, (the Regulations) govern the composition and proceedings of Standards Committee. The Standards Committee is not required to be politically balanced. A Standards Committee must have a membership of between five and nine members to include independent lay members, County Councillors and City, Town and Community Council representation. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee must always be independent lay members and the meeting is only quorate if the majority of those present are independent lay members.
- 4.2 The Standards Committee of this Council has a membership of seven members comprised as follows two County Councillors, one Community Council member and four independent lay members.

- 4.3 Two vacancies have arisen on the Committee, one vacancy for an elected Member and one for an independent lay member.
- 4.4 Nominations are sought for an elected Member of the Council to be appointed to the Standards Committee.
- 4.5 The Regulations require that a Standards Committee Special Appointments Panel is appointed to consider applications from those whom wish to become independent members of the Committee and make recommendations to Council. There are five members of this panel, three of whom are County Councillors, a lay person and a City, Town or Community Council member. A vacancy has arisen for a County Councillor to sit on the Panel. Nominations are sought for this vacancy.
- 4.6 The Panel will meet to appoint a lay member and a City, Town or Community Council member, to the Panel and then to consider applications and conduct interviews. The Panel will make a recommendation on the appointment to Council.

**5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?**

- 5.1 A fully functioning and representative Standards Committee which upholds the high standards expected of Members helps underpin the Council's exercise of its democratic functions.

**6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**

- 6.1 There are no direct costs associated with this report, however, the Council will be required by statute to place advertisements in at least two newspapers circulating in the area in respect of the vacancy for an independent member.

**7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.**

- 7.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

**8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?**

- 8.1 There is no statutory requirement to consult on the appointments sought by this report. Group Leaders have been asked to consider nominations in respect of these appointments. There is a statutory requirement to advertise publically for independent members of the Committee.

**9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

- 9.1 The costs associated with the decision are minor and will be contained within existing resources.

**10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**

10.1 The risk of not appointing members to the Standards Committee is that a reduced membership may increase the likelihood of the Committee being inquorate.

**11. Power to make the Decision**

11.1 Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001 as amended.