

Report To: County Council

Date of Meeting: 23 May 2017

Lead Member / Officer: Gary Williams, Monitoring Officer

Report Author: Lisa Jones , Legal Services Manager /Deputy Monitoring Officer

Title: Lay Member Appointments to Corporate Governance and the Standards Committee

1. What is the report about?

1.1 The report is about the continued appointment of two lay (independent) Members.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

2.1 Appointments to the Standards Committee and Corporate Governance Committee require the approval of the Full Council.

3. What are the Recommendations?

3.1 That Mr Ian Trigger, be appointed to the Standards Committee for a term of office to expire on the date of the next Local Government Elections in 2022

3.2 That Mr Paul Witham be appointed to the Corporate Governance Committee for a term of office to expire on the date of the next Local Government Elections in 2022.

4. Report details.

4.1 Standards Committee Appointment

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 A lay member to the Standard Committee may under the regulations, only serve two terms of office, this would therefore be the proposed appointee's final term, if re-appointed.
- 4.4 The Member put forward for re-appointment was recruited via a public advert and selected from amongst a number of applicants by the Council's Appointments Panel.
- 4.5 Corporate Governance Appointment
- 4.6 The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (the Measure) requires the Council to appoint an Audit Committee. The membership of which must include at least one lay member. The Committee may have no more than one third of its membership comprised of lay members.
- 4.7 On 15th May 2012 Council agreed to designate the Corporate Governance Committee as the Council's Audit Committee. Council further agreed that one member of the Committee should be a lay member.
- 4.8 The council advertised the position of lay member in the local press by means of a joint advertisement with four other North Wales authorities. Three applications were received for Denbighshire County Council vacancies.
- 4.9 The lay member was selected by the Corporate Governance Committee members.

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.
- 5.2 The requirement in the Measure to appoint a lay member to the Committee is compulsory. Failure to appoint a lay member would render the proceedings of the Committee invalid.

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

The lay member will be entitled under the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales' report to a daily fee and travel expenses reimbursed laid down in law.

7 What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

There are no well being implications as a result of this decision, an open public recruitment exercise was run for these appointments. The decision does not affect well being.

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

There is no statutory requirement to consult on the appointments sought by this report. There is a statutory requirement to advertise publically for independent members of the Committees.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

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?

With regard to Standards Committee, the Council Constitution stipulates that there are to be four lay members. The risk of not appointing members to the Standards Committee is that a reduced membership may increase the likelihood of the Committee being inquorate.

The requirement in the Measure to appoint a lay member to the Corporate Governance Committee is compulsory. Failure to appoint a lay member would render the proceedings of the Committee invalid.

11 Power to make the Decision

Section 81 and 82 Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001 as amended.