

Report To: County Council

Date of Meeting: 30 January 2018

Lead Member / Officer: Gary Williams, Monitoring Officer

Report Author: Gary Williams, Monitoring Officer

Title: Appointment of an Independent Lay Member to Standards Committee

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1 The report is about the appointment of an independent lay member to the Standards Committee.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1 Appointments to the Standards Committee require the approval of the Full Council.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1 That Peter Lamb be appointed to the Standards Committee for a term of office to expire on the date of the next Local Government Elections in 2022

4. Report details.

- 4.1 The Standards Committee Regulations 2001, as amended, (the Regulations) govern the composition and proceedings of the 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 vacancy has arisen for an independent lay member of the Standards Committee.
- 4.4 The Regulations require that the Council must publish an advertisement for the post of independent lay member and establish a panel of no more than five members (the Panel) to consider each application received and make recommendations to the Council on the appointment. The Panel must contain

at least one lay member and one representative of City, Town and Community Councils. At its meeting on 17th October Council appointed Councillors Gareth Davies, Richard Mainon and Mark Young to the Panel.

4.5 There were two applicants for the post of independent lay member, both of whom were interviewed by the Panel on 19th January 2018. Mr. Lamb was considered by the Panel to be the most suitable candidate and is therefore recommended to the Council for appointment.

4.6 The Regulations provide that an independent lay member may serve a term of office of between four and six years. At the end of that term it is possible for the member to serve one further term if re-appointed by the Council. It is suggested that Mr. Lamb serve until the date of the Local Government Elections in 2022.

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 as laid down in law from time to time.

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 this appointments.

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

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

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.

11. Power to make the Decision

Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001 as amended.