

<b>Report to</b>	Governance and Audit Committee
<b>Date of meeting</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> March 2022
<b>Lead Member / Officer</b>	Gary Williams, Monitoring Officer
<b>Report author</b>	Gary Williams, Monitoring Officer
<b>Title</b>	Lay Members of Governance and Audit Committee

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

1.1. The report is about the need to recruit lay persons to sit on the Committee following the local government election in May 2022.

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

2.1. The provisions of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 make changes to the membership of the Governance and Audit committee that require an increased number of lay person members.

## **3. What are the Recommendations?**

3.1. That the Committee confirms that it will appoint from it's membership a panel to shortlist and interview candidates for the role of lay person on the Committee.

## **4. Report details**

4.1. The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (s116) requires that one third of the membership of the Governance and Audit Committee should comprise of lay persons. 'Lay persons' are defined in the Act (s117) as a person who:

(a) is not a member or an officer of any local authority,

(b) has not at any time in the period of twelve months ending with the date of that person's appointment been a member or an officer of any local authority, and,

(c) is not the spouse or civil partner of a member or an officer of any local authority;

4.2. In this context 'member' means a Councillor (s171)

4.3. The current membership of the Committee is comprised of six elected members, politically balanced, and one lay member.

4.4. In order to maintain the number of six councillors on the Committee it will be necessary to have three lay persons.

4.5. The Council has taken part in a recruitment campaign co-ordinated on a national basis by Welsh Local Government Association and has received a number of applications that will need to be considered and interviews will need to be held.

4.6. In May 2012 Council delegated the task of interviewing applicants for the position of lay member to this Committee in order that a recommendation as to appointment of a lay member could be made to Council. Council will need to make the final appointments.

4.7. The Committee is therefore asked to provide from within its number a panel of members able to conduct the necessary assessment and interviewing of applicants.

4.8. The Committee is reminded that following the elections in May 2022, the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 will require that the Chair of the Committee must be a lay person.

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

5.1. The decision does not have a direct impact upon the corporate priorities.

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

6.1. The lay persons who are appointed will be entitled to be paid day rate allowances for their attendance at meetings. These rates are set by the Independent Remuneration panel for Wales and will be in 2022/2023 as follows,

- Lay person Chair £268 per day and £134 per half day
- Lay person member £210 per day and £105 per half day

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

7.1. An assessment is not required for this report.

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

8.1. There have been no consultations with Scrutiny. The provisions of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 have been the subject of member workshops.

## **9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

9.1. It is currently anticipated that the costs will be maintained within existing resources. Any shortfall will be small and will be funded by allocating an element of the in-year contingency budget.

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

10.1. There is a risk that if the lay persons are not appointed, the Committee will not be compliant with the relevant legislation.

## **11. Power to make the decision**

11.1. s116 Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021