

Report to	Full Council
Date of meeting	24 th May 2022
Lead Member / Officer	Gary Williams, Monitoring Officer
Report author	Lisa Jones, Deputy Monitoring Officer
Title	Appointment of Members to the Standards Committee

1. What is the report about?

To seek Council' nominations and appointments to the Standards Committee; to establish a 'Special Appointments Panel' in respect of one replacement Lay Member. Further, to consult on the reappointment of the Town, City and Community Council Member of Standards Committee.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

The governing regulations regarding the composition of the Council's Standards Committee requires a committee of between five and nine members comprising persons who are independent of the Council (Lay or independent Members), County Councillors and a Town and Community Council Councillor. Due to the passage of time, and the legal time limits in which the Lay Members may serve, it is now necessary for one retiring Independent Member (Ian Trigger) to be replaced; one Lay Member to be reappointed for a further term of office; a re-appointment of a Town and Community Member and also the establishment of a Special Appointments Panel to interview the prospective candidates for the vacant Lay Member role and make the appropriate recommendations to the Full Council thereafter.

Denbighshire's Standards Committee is made up of 7 members, and regulations provide that where there is an odd number, there must be a majority of Lay Members. Therefore, the Council requires 4 Lay Members, 2 County Councillor Members and one Town, City and Community Member. Council has already re-appointed 2 of these Lay Members (Anne Mellor and Julia Hughes) for this further term of office. Council is also asked to appoint two of it's elected Members to sit on the Standards Committee.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1 That the Monitoring Officer consult with the Town, City and Community Councils in respect of the Standards Committee' Town and Community Member, Councillor Gordon Hughes' re-appointment.
- 3.2 That the independent member Peter Lamb, be reappointed for a second and final term of office.
- 3.3 That three County Councillors be appointed to sit on the Standards Committee Special Appointments Panel in order to consider and interview the applicants for the Lay Member vacancy and thereafter make recommendations to Full Council.
- 3.4 That two County Councillors be appointed as the Council members to sit on the Council's Standards Committee.
- 3.2 A Well-being Impact Assessment is not required as part of this decision.

4. Report details

Re-appointment of the Community Council Member

- 4.1 The Standards Committee Regulations require that before re-appointing the Town and Community Council representative, Town and Community Councils within the County and Community Council Associations should be consulted. The current Community representative Councillor Gordon Hughes, has advised he is happy to continue, subject to the statutory consultation, then approval. Once that consultation has been completed then a report will be brought back to the Full Council together with recommendations in respect of the Lay Member appointment as set out in 4.2 below.

Re-appointment of one Lay Member.

- 4.2 The Standards Committee legislation was amended in 2006 and since then members can serve a second consecutive term, which in the case of independent members, this is limited to four years. The independent member, Peter Lamb, who is eligible to serve a further term, has expressed a desire to continue in their role and Council is invited to re-appoint. In making the re-appointment for the one further term, the amended regulations now stipulate that there is no requirement to re-appoint through advertisement.

Establishment of a Special Appointments Panel

- 4.3 The Standards Committee Regulations also establish a Special Appointments Panel whose function is to consider applications for any vacancies for the Lay (ie non Council)

members, and to make recommendations to the Full Council. This Panel shall consist of not more than five panel members. One panel member must be a lay person, one a community council member and up to three must be County Councillors.

4.4 This Panel meets only very occasionally when such a vacancy arises. Council is therefore requested to nominate 3 County Councillors to the Standards Committee Special Appointments Panel in readiness for the recruitment process for the replacement independent member to be commenced. The regulations do not stipulate that this Panel should be politically balanced, however previous Councils have made politically balanced nominations.

Appointment of Two County Councillors to the Standards Committee

4.5 Two appointments are sought from Council to sit on Standards Committee itself which sits approximately 4 or 5 times per year.

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

A fully functioning and legally composite Standards' Committee will provide the Council with the required oversight and enforcement of the ethical framework within it's area; upholding the high standards expected of members underpins the Council's democratic functions and a well governed Council supports the achievement of corporate priorities.

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

The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales sets the daily rate for independent members. It is a legal requirement that this rate is offered to independent members. This daily rate for 2022-23 is as follows:

If a member works for less than 4 hours per day the rate is £105 to £134, depending on their role.

If a member works for more than 4 hours per day the rate is £210 to £268 depending on their role.

The cost will be met from existing allocations for this Committee as there are no substantial changes to the membership requirements.

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

A Well Being Impact Assessment is not required.

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

Standards Committee have been informed of the recruitment approval process. A public advert will be placed in accordance with the legislation.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

As stated in section 6 the cost will be met from existing budget allocations as there are no substantial changes to the membership requirements. There are therefore no direct financial implications.

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

There are no identified risks in proceeding with the appointments.

11. Power to make the decision

Local Government Act 2000

The Standards Committee (Wales) Regulations 2001