

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 Lay Members to the Governance and Audit Committee

1. What is the report about?

To seek Council' approval to appoint 3 independent Lay Members.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

The governing legislation regarding the composition of the Council's Governance and Audit Committee makes it mandatory for the Council to ensure that the Governance and Audit Committee comprises of one third of members who are independent of the Council.

3. What are the Recommendations?

3.1 The recommendation of the Special Appointments Panel regarding the three individuals they consider most appropriate to sit as Lay Members on the Committee are: -

- 1) The re-appointment for a second term of office of Paul Whitham
- 2) The appointment for a term of office of David Stewart
- 3) The appointment for a term of office of Nigel Rudd

3.2 A Well-being Impact Assessment is not required as part of this decision.

4. Report details

The Council was required under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 to appoint at least one independent lay member to its Governance and Audit Committee. This externally

advertised vacancy resulted in the appointment of Mr Paul Whitham. Unlike the Council's Standards' Committee Lay Member appointments, Lay Members of the Governance and Audit Committee do not have a maximum term of office, but may be reappointed by Council should they wish to continue for a further term. Mr Witham has agreed to continue for a further term, subject to Council approval.

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2022 amended the 2011 Measure to require one third of members to be independent lay members; a recruitment campaign and interview process has now been completed in order to appoint 2 further additional lay members; and also re-appoint Mr Whitham providing the Committee with 3 independent lay members in total.

Full Council delegated the selection process to a Special Appointments Panel consisting of Members of the Governance and Audit Committee at its meeting on the 22nd May 2012. Councillor Barry Mellor, Councillor Rhys Thomas and now retired Councillor Martyn Holland undertook the interviews with support from the Council's Interim Chief Auditor and the Legal Services' Manager. Following interviews, references were sought and have been shared with the Special Appointments Panel. The Panel now makes the formal recommendation in Section 3 above to the Full Council.

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

A fully functioning and legally composite Governance and Audit Committee will provide the Council with the required oversight and review in respect of corporate governance, effective financial and risk management and internal/external audit findings. 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.

Given the Committees' Chair must now be a Lay Member, as opposed to an Elected Member, the Council will not be paying the senior salary (£8,793 per annum) offered to a Chair of a statutory Committee. It is therefore estimated that 3 Lay Members, as opposed to 1 Lay Member, and the removal of the Chairs' senior salary will result in no additional expenditure other than currently allocated and may potentially result in a saving. However this is the first time the Council has had a Lay Member Chair of Audit and Governance Committee.

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?

All local authorities in Wales have been supported by the Welsh Local Government Association in respect of publishing the opportunities and advertised on the Council website. Full Council and the Governance and Audit Committee have been kept informed during the pre-appointment process.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The service is confident that the net financial impact can be maintained within existing budgets. The position will be monitored closely during 2022/23.

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

s.82 Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 as amended by s.116 Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021