

Report To: County Council

Date of Meeting: 10th July 2012

Lead Member / Officer: Barbara Smith – Lead Member for Modernisation and Performance

Report Author: Gary Williams – Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Title: Appointment of lay member to Corporate Governance Committee

1. What is the report about?

The report is about the appointment of a lay member to sit on the Corporate Governance Committee of the Council which is the Council's Audit Committee for the purposes of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (the Measure).

2. What is the reason for making this report?

2.1 The Council is required by the Measure to have an Audit Committee and to appoint at least one lay member to that Committee. The Committee cannot exercise any of its functions until its membership is complete.

3. What are the Recommendations?

3.1 That Council appoints as a lay member to the Corporate Governance Committee the person recommended by the interview panel.

3.2 That the lay member be appointed for a term of office to expire on the date of the next Local Government Election in 2017.

4. Report details

4.1 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.

4.2 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.

4.3 On 22nd May 2012 Council appointed six elected members to the Corporate Governance Committee and delegated to those members the role of interviewing candidates for the position of lay member and recommending to Council a person to be appointed.

4.4 The council advertised the position of lay member in the local press by means of a joint advertisement with two other North Wales authorities.

- 4.5 At the time of writing this report the Council has received applications from three candidates, all of whom will be interviewed on 2nd July 2012.
- 4.6 Candidates are not eligible for consideration if they are Officers or Councillors of any relevant authority, nor can they be the spouse or civil partner of such a person. Candidates are not eligible if they are former Councillors or Officers of Denbighshire County Council.
- 4.8 The interview panel will make a recommendation to Council as to the person to be appointed.

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

- 5.1 The decision implements the requirements of the Measure and contributes to the priority of a high performing Council.

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

- 6.1 The lay member will be entitled under the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales' report to a daily fee of £198 (£99 for a half day) and £256 (£128 for half day) if the lay member is the Chair of the Committee. Payments are for meeting time and include time spent on preparation and travel. A half day meeting is defined as up to four hours and a full day is over four hours. Payments are capped at a maximum of the equivalent of ten full days a year.

7. What consultations have been carried out?

- 7.1 The Welsh Government consulted widely on the implementation of the Measure.

8. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The role is a requirement of the Measure. The costs of appointing a lay member are not significant and will be contained within existing resources.

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

- 9.1 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.

10. Power to make the Decision

Section 81 and 82 Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011.