

**Report To:** Full Council

**Date of Meeting:** 11<sup>th</sup> September 2012

**Lead Member / Officer:** Gary Williams, Monitoring Officer

**Report Author:** Lisa Jones – Deputy Monitoring Officer

**Title:** Standards Committee Appointments

---

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

To appoint for a further term the Community Council Member and one Independent (Co-opted) Member of the Standards Committee and to seek nominations for three County Councillors to sit on a Special Appointments Panel.

**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, County Councillors and Town and Community Council Councillors. Due to the passage of time, and the legal time limits in which the Community Member and the Independent Members may serve, it is now necessary for two retiring Independent Members to be replaced, and also for the Community Member and one current independent member, to be re-appointed for a further term of office.

**3. What are the Recommendations?**

3.1 That Council makes the following appointments in respect of the Standards Committee: -

- (1) That the Town and Community Councillor, David Jones, Llanferres Community Council, be reappointed for one further term of office.
- (2) That the independent member, Paula White, be reappointed for a final term of four years.

3.2 That three County Councillors be appointed to sit on the Standards Committee Special Appointments Panel in order to, in the first instance, consider applications for the lay and community panel members; thereafter as a complete panel, to consider applications for the two independent Standards Committee member vacancies and make recommendations to Full Council.

## **4. Report details**

### **4.1 Re-appointment of the Community Council Member**

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. This consultation period has now expired, and no responses were received. The current Community Council Member has expressed a desire to continue in the role and Council is invited to re-appoint.

### **4.2 Re-appointment of the Independent (Co-Opted) Member.**

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 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.

### **4.2 Establishment of a Special Appointments Panel**

The Standards Committee Regulations also establish a Special Appointments Panel whose function is to consider applications for any vacancies for the independent (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 member a community council member and up to three must be County Councillors.

This Panel meets only very occasionally when such a vacancy arises. Council is therefore requested to make these three appointments to this Panel in readiness for the recruitment process for the replacement independent members to be commenced. The regulations do not stipulate that this Panel should be politically balanced, however previous Councils have made politically balanced nominations, therefore this would equate to one Labour, one Independent and one Conservative.

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

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.

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

There are no implications for other services as a result of this report. There will be some direct advertising costs and Officer time in recruiting the two new independent members.

**7. What consultations have been carried out?**

The requisite statutory consultations have been carried out.

**8. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

The costs associated with the appointments are not significant and should be contained within existing resources.

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

The Council will be in breach of the governing legislation and will not have in place a committee to deal with any matters referred to it by the Public Services Ombudsman.

**10. Power to make the Decision**

The Local Government Act 2000; the Standards Committee (Wales) Regulations 2001 and the Standards Committee (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006.