

Report To: Full Council

Date of Meeting: 26th February, 2013

Lead Member / Officer: Gary Williams, Monitoring Officer

Report Author: Lisa Jones – Deputy Monitoring Officer

Title: Standards Committee Appointment

1. What is the report about?

The appointment of an Independent (Co-opted) Member of the 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, County Councillors and Town and Community Council Councillors. Due to the passage of time, and the legal time limits in which any Independent Members may serve, it is now necessary for Full Council to consider either a re-appointment for one further term of office or to instruct the Monitoring Officer to re-advertise the appointment.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That Council recommend :

- 3.1 The re-appointment of Ms Margaret Medley or,
- 3.2 Instruct the Monitoring Officer to commence recruitment.

4. Report details

- 4.1 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 one independent member who is eligible to serve a further term has expressed a desire to continue in their role and Council is invited to consider the re-appointment or to instruct the Monitoring Officer to re-advertise the role. In the event of a re-appointment for the one further term, the amended regulations now stipulate that there is no requirement to re-appoint through advertisement.
- 4.2 The independent member, Ms Margaret Medley, has expressed a desire to continue in their role and a letter to the Monitoring Officer is attached. As Ms

Medley is not an elected member, her personal address has been redacted from this public report.

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. In the event that the appointment is to be re-advertised, there will be some direct advertising costs in recruiting a new independent member, together with officer and member time in dealing with the recruitment process. Co-opted members are entitled to be paid an allowance in accordance with the Independent Remuneration Panel's mandatory levels. The rates are a daily rate and are available on their website.

7. What consultations have been carried out?

With regard to the independent member vacancies, there are no statutory consultations required. In addition this vacancy had been advertised in two local newspapers at the time of the original appointment.

8. Chief Finance Officer Statement

There are no obvious significant financial implications contained in the report.

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.