

Report to	County Council
Date of meeting	13 th May 2025
Lead Member/Officer	Gary Williams Corporate Director/Monitoring Officer
Head of Service	Catrin Roberts, Head of Corporate Support Services - People
Report Author	Catrin Roberts, Head of Corporate Support Services - People
Title	Appointment of Lay Member to the Standards Committee

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1. To appoint for one term of office, 2 Lay Member to the Council's Standards Committee.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1. 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 City, Town and Community Council Councillors.
- 2.2. The majority of members on the Standards Committee must be Lay Members appointed by a Standards Committee Appointments Panel which is made up of not more than five panel members:
- Chair of the Standards Committee,
 - a lay person,
 - a community council member and
 - up to two County Councillors.
- 2.3. The Standards Committee Appointments Panel are required to make a recommendation on the appointments to Full Council for approval.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1. The Council's Standards Committee Appointments Panel recommend to Full Council that Kate Robertson and Maggie Griffiths be appointed as Lay Members for the Council's Standards Committee.

4. Report details

- 4.1. The Standards Committee Appointments Panel comprising of the Chair, Julia Hughes, County Councillor Bobby Feeley, Community Councillor Gordon Hughes; and Lay Member Noela Jones interviewed prospective applicants for the two vacant lay member positions on the Council's Standards Committee.
- 4.2. 3 applicants were interviewed and were required to answer a number of questions and were assessed on their responses to each question.
- 4.3. Following the interview process, the Standards Committee Appointments Panel agreed to offer the two lay member positions to Kate Robertson and Maggie Griffiths, subject to Full Council approval.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Plan 2022 to 2027: The Denbighshire We Want?

- 5.1. 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?

- 6.1. There are no additional costs associated with the appointment of 2 Lay members as they are replacing 2 other lay members whose terms are coming to an end. Lay members are entitled to be paid an allowance in accordance with the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales mandatory levels (transferred over to the Democracy Boundary Commission Cymru (DBCC) from 1 April 2025) The rates are a daily rate and are available on their website. Costs will be maintained within the current budget.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment and what changes have, or will be made to the project or approach as a result of the assessment?

7.1. A Well-being Impact Assessment is not required.

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

8.1. Full Council have been consulted on and agreed to the establishment of the Appointments Panel itself. Standards Committee were involved in the preparation for the recruitment process.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1. Appointment of independent lay members to the Standards Committee is a statutory requirements with remuneration set externally.

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

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

11. Power to make the decision

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