



## **COUNCIL – 17<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023**

**SUBJECT: STANDARDS COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT OF TWO INDEPENDENT LAY MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR MEMBER**

**REPORT BY: HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES AND MONITORING OFFICER**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To appoint one Community Councillor member and two independent lay members to the Standards Committee and to consider a recommendation for the appointment of three reserves as independent lay members.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 This report sets out the process undertaken to fill the current vacancies that have arisen on the Council's Standards Committee.
- 2.2 The report recommends that Council accept the recommendations of the Appointments Panel in relation to the filling of the two independent lay member vacancies; the appointment of the community council representative and the appointment of three independent lay member reserves to the Standards Committee.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Members are asked to approve the following recommendations:
- (1) Community Councillor Anne Gray be appointed as the Community Council representative on the Standards Committee, until the next Community/Town Council election in May 2027;
  - (2) that Lisa Jay and Vik Yadh be appointed for a period of six years from 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023 as Independent Lay Members of the Standards Committee;
  - (3) to agree to establishing a reserve list of Independent Lay Members and that Maeve Williams, Robert Butcher and David Williams be invited to remain on that list for a period of twelve months from the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

#### **4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 In order to comply with the statutory requirements concerning the establishment and membership of a Standards Committee and to give effect to the recommendations of the Appointments Panel set up under the Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001.

#### **5. THE REPORT**

- 5.1 In May 2022, the previous community council representative, Community Councillor Mrs. G. Davies, had served two full terms and was required to resign from the Standards Committee.
- 5.2 Subsequently, all the community/town councils in the county borough were contacted and asked to provide nominations for the vacancy.
- 5.3 Four nominations were received, and Community Councillor Anne Gray was nominated by the town/community councils for recommendation to the Council to be the community council representative on the Standards Committee.
- 5.4 On 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021, Mr. David Lewis, independent lay member and Chair of the Standards Committee had served two full terms, and in compliance with the regulations, was required to resign.
- 5.5 On the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022, Mr. C. Finn, resigned as an independent lay member of the Standards Committee due to him gaining employment with the council.
- 5.6 The vacancies were advertised in the local press and social media. An Appointments Panel was established to consider the applications and to make a recommendation to the Council. In accordance with the regulations the Panel comprised of one Plaid Cymru member, Councillor J. Taylor, a Community Council member, Mrs. A. Gray, the Chair of the Standards Committee, Mr. P. Brunt, and a lay member, Mr. D. Lewis. Cllr Price was also invited to be a part of the Panel but due to unforeseen circumstances she was unable to attend the day of the interviews.
- 5.7 The advertisement attracted seven applications. All seven of the applicants were invited for interview. The interviews took place on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022.
- 5.8 Following deliberations, the Panel members agreed the following:-
- (a) that Lisa Jay and Vik Yadh be recommended to Council for appointment as independent lay members of the Standards Committee for a period of six years from 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023.
  - (b) that the Council considers setting up a reserve list of independent lay members and that Maeve Williams, Robert Butcher and David Williams be invited to remain on that reserve list for a period of one year.

## **6. ASSUMPTIONS**

6.1 No assumptions are necessary within this report.

## **7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

7.1 This report is for appointments to the Standards Committee and so there is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment.

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There is existing provision for allowances for independent lay members and therefore there are no additional financial implications for the Authority

## **9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are none.

## **10. CONSULTATIONS**

10.1 There has been no formal consultation on the report as the report reflects the deliberations of the Appointments Panel.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

11.1 Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001

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