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**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND LEGAL  
SERVICES**

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**APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF STANDARDS AND ETHICS  
COMMITTEE**

**Reason for this Report**

1. To seek approval for the appointment of an Independent Member of the Standards & Ethics Committee.

**Background**

2. The Constitution provides that the Standards & Ethics Committee shall have five independent members, three county councillors and one community councillor – Constitution Article 9.2(a).
3. At its October meeting, Council approved the appointment of Community Councillor Stuart Thomas to fill the vacancy for a Community Council member on the Standards and Ethics Committee, following the expiry of the previous incumbent's term of office.
4. One of the five Independent Members of the Standards and Ethics Committee, Hollie Edwards-Davies, has indicated her intention to resign from the Committee due to personal and work commitments.
5. The Standards and Ethics Committee considered a report on this matter at its meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017 and approved a public appointments process for filling the vacancy.

**Issues**

6. The Council needs to make an appointment to fill the vacancy for an Independent Member of the Standards and Ethics Committee arising from the resignation of Hollie Edwards-Davies.
7. The appointment of members of the Standards and Ethics Committee is governed by the Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001 (as amended) ("the Regulations") and the Council's Constitution.
8. The Regulations require the Council to carry out a public recruitment exercise as specified in the Regulations and to establish an appointments panel (comprised of up to five panel members, and including one lay panel member and one community councillor), to assess applications against the

published criteria for the post, and to make a recommendation on appointment to full Council.

9. The decision on appointment must be made by full Council, having regard to the recommendation of the Appointments Panel.
10. The vacancy was advertised in the South Wales Echo and the Western Mail in September 2017. A number of expressions of interest were received, but only 2 applications were submitted.
11. An Appointments Panel was established, comprised of Jackie Griffiths, lay panel member; two Independent members of the Standards and Ethics Committee (Richard Tebboth and Hollie Edwards-Davies); Councillor Stephen Cunnah and Community Councillor Stuart Thomas.
12. The Panel, supported and advised by the Monitoring Officer, interviewed both candidates on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017. Having regard to the criteria set out in the person specification for the role, the Panel recommended the appointment of Mrs Thora Lewis, subject to receipt of satisfactory references, which have now been received.
13. The Regulations provide that the independent members' terms of office must be set at between four and six years.

### **Legal Implications**

14. The legal implications are contained within the body of the report.

### **Financial Implications**

15. There are no financial implications arising from this report

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Council is recommended to approve the appointment of Mrs Thora Lewis as Independent Member of the Standards and Ethics Committee, for a term of 4 years.

**Davina Fiore**

**Director of Governance and Legal Services and Monitoring Officer**

18 January 2018

### Background papers

Standards & Ethics Committee report 'Committee Vacancies – Community Council Member & One Independent Member', 4th September 2017