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

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**INDEPENDENT MEMBER VACANCY – STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE**

**Reason for this Report**

1. To inform the Council of an Independent Member vacancy which has unexpectedly arisen and seek approval for arrangements to fill the vacancy.

**Background**

2. The Council has been notified that one of the Independent Members of the Standards and Ethics Committee, Mrs Thora Lewis, sadly passed away in May.
3. The Council's Constitution (Article 9.2(a)(i)) provides that the Standards & Ethics Committee's membership shall include 5 Independent Members (who by law cannot be either a Councillor or an employee or the spouse of a Councillor or an employee of the authority or any other relevant authority, as defined by the Local Government Act 2000), who are to be appointed in accordance with the procedure set out in the Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001 ('the Regulations').

**Issues**

4. When a vacancy arises on the Standards Committee for an Independent Member, the Council is obliged to carry out a publicly advertised appointments process to fill the vacancy. A public appointments process was last conducted in November 2017. The Appointments Panel convened in accordance with the Regulations did not recommend any reserve candidates suitable for appointment to the Committee.
5. The Regulations provide for the re-appointment of an Independent Member for one further consecutive term of up to 4 years. The obligation to carry out a publicly advertised appointments process does not apply to reappointments made in accordance with the Regulations.
6. Hollie Edwards-Davies was appointed as an Independent Member of the Standards and Ethics Committee by Council on 26 June 2014, following a public appointments process conducted in accordance with the Regulations. She stood down from the Committee in November 2017 to take maternity leave. Ms Edwards-

Davies has confirmed she would be happy to now resume her position on the Committee.

7. Council approval is required for any reappointment or new appointment of an Independent Member to the Committee.
8. The Standards and Ethics Committee Members on 13 June 2018 met informally and recommended that the Council re-appoint Hollie Edwards-Davies as Independent Member of the Standards and Ethics Committee for a further four year term.

### **Legal Implications**

9. The relevant legal provisions are set out in the body of the report. The Committee will note that the Regulations allow an independent member to be re-appointed for one further consecutive term of up to four years.

### **Financial Implications**

10. There are no financial implications arising from this report

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Council reappoint of Hollie Edwards-Davies as an Independent Member of the Standards and Ethics Committee for a further four year term.

**Davina Fiore**

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

14<sup>th</sup> June 2018

### **Background Papers**

Council reports and Minutes 25 January 2018 and 26 June 2014