

**COUNCIL:**

**18 JULY 2019**

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

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**STANDARDS & ETHICS COMMITTEE - INDEPENDENT MEMBER RE-APPOINTMENT**

**Reason for this Report**

1. To inform the Council of the expiry of the term of office of one of the independent members of the Standards and Ethics Committee; and to recommend his reappointment.

**Background**

2. The Council's Constitution (Article 9.2(a)(i)) provides that the Standards & Ethics Committee's membership shall include 5 independent members (along with three county councillors and one community councillor).
3. The appointment of independent members to the Standards and Ethics Committee is governed by the Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001, as amended ("the Regulations"). Under the Regulations, an independent member 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); and must be appointed in accordance with the procedure set out in the Regulations.

**Issues**

4. The appointment of the Standards and Ethics Committee Vice-Chair (Dr James Downe) as an independent member of the Committee was approved by Council on 22nd September 2011, for a 4 year term, to take effect when the next independent member vacancy arose. Dr Downe's appointment took effect on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2013. As Dr Downe was appointed for a 4 year term, his first term of office ended on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017, but due to an administrative error, this was recorded as November 2019.
5. The Regulations (Regulation 21(2)) provide that an independent member of a standards committee may be reappointed by the authority for one further consecutive term of up to 4 years.
6. Dr Downe has indicated that he is willing to stand for re-appointment.

7. Council approval is required for any reappointment of an independent member to the Standards and Ethics Committee.

### **Legal Implications**

8. The relevant legal provisions are set out in the body of the report.

### **Financial Implications**

9. There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council approves the reappointment of Dr James Downe as an independent member of the Standards and Ethics Committee for a further consecutive term, expiring on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021.

**Davina Fiore**

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

9 July 2019

### **Background Papers**

Council report, 'Appointment of New Independent Members of the Standards and Ethics Committee', 22 September 2011 and minutes thereof