

COUNCIL: 26 JUNE 2014

AGENDA ITEM:

REPORT OF THE COUNTY CLERK AND MONITORING OFFICER

**APPOINTMENT OF NEW INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF THE
STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE**

Reason for this Report

1. To approve the appointment of three new independent members (and one reserve appointee) to the Council's Standards and Ethics Committee.

Background

2. The Constitution provides that the Standards & Ethics Committee shall have five independent members (along with three county councillors and one community councillor) – Constitution Article 9.2(a).
3. The terms of office of three of the current independent members of the Committee (Paul Stockton, Maureen Hedley-Clarke and Deirdre Jones) are due to expire on 27 July 2014. As all three members are in their second term of office, no further re-appointment is allowed by law. The Council therefore needs to make three new independent member appointments to the Committee.

Issues

4. The appointment of independent members to the Standards and Ethics Committee is governed by the Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001 (as amended) ("the Regulations").
5. 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 posts, and to make recommendations on appointments to Council.
6. The decision on appointments must be made by full Council, having regard to the recommendations of the appointments panel.

7. The independent member vacancies were advertised in the South Wales Echo, and the Western Mail and Capital Times (joint advertisements with the Audit Committee) in February / March 2014. A total of 30 expressions of interest were received.
8. An appointments panel was established, comprised of Mr Mike Daw, lay panel member, and two current members of the Standards and Ethics Committee, County Councillor Georgina Philips and Community Councillor John Hughes. The panel, supported and advised by the Monitoring Officer, shortlisted seven applicants for interview, and held interviews on 23rd May 2014.
9. The appointments panel was pleased to note that applicants were of a high calibre and suitable for appointment to the Committee. Having regard to the criteria set out in the person specification for the role, the panel recommended the following individuals for appointment to the three vacant independent member positions, subject to satisfactory references:
 - Mr David Hugh Thomas,
 - Ms Mary Roe and
 - Ms Hollie Edwards-Davies
10. The appointments panel has also recommended that one of the other shortlisted applicants, Ms Freda Lewis, be held as a 'reserve', for appointment to any independent member vacancy which may arise on the Standards and Ethics Committee within the next 6 months, subject again to satisfactory references being provided at the relevant time.
11. References are currently being sought for each of the three candidates listed in paragraph 9.
12. The Regulations provide that the independent members' terms of office must be set at between four and six years. Having regard to the costs incurred by the Council in carrying out the necessary public recruitment exercise, the recommendation is that all appointments should be made for the maximum 6 year term.

Legal Implications

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

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council is requested to:

1. Approve, subject to receipt of satisfactory references as determined by the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Committee Chair, the appointments of Mr David Hugh Thomas, Ms Mary Roe and Ms Hollie Edwards-Davies as independent members of the Standards and Ethics Committee, with effect from 28th July 2014, each for a term of six years; and
2. Approve, subject to a vacancy arising within the next six months and the receipt of satisfactory references as determined by the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Committee Chair, the appointment of Ms Freda Lewis as independent member of the Standards and Ethics Committee, with effect from a date to be confirmed by the Monitoring Officer, for a term of six years.

MARIE ROSENTHAL
County Clerk and Monitoring Officer
20 June 2014