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

**APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER TO THE GOVERNANCE AND
AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Reason for this Report

1. To receive the recommendation of the Governance and Audit Committee for the appointment of an Independent Member to the committee.
2. To appoint the recommended candidate as an Independent Member of the Governance and Audit Committee.

Background

3. At the Annual meeting on 27 May 2021 Council approved the establishment and terms of reference of the Governance and Audit Committee, and the composition of the committee of 12 Members comprised of 8 Elected Members and 4 Independent Members.
4. Following the resignation of Ian Arundale as an independent member of the Audit Committee on 23 March 2021, the Governance and Audit Committee established an appointments panel to recruit an Independent Member to serve on the committee in his place.
5. A recruitment exercise was undertaken and the notification of vacancy was published in local newspaper and on the Council's website. The Council website also provided additional information about the role and the requirements of being an independent member of the committee.

Issues

6. The recruitment exercise concluded on the 24 September with the Appointment Panel interviewing all shortlisted candidates.
7. The Panel is to report its recommendation on appointment to the meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee to be held on 28 September 2021.
8. The Committees recommendation on appointment will be included on the amendment sheet for Council which will be published on 30 September 2021.

Legal Implications

9. The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (section 82) provides that there must be at least one lay member on the Governance and Audit Committee or up to a third of the total membership. The current composition of the Governance and Audit Committee includes four non - councillor 'Independent Members' seats and 8 Councillors. This proportion of Independent Members is one third of the Committee members, which is currently the maximum permitted by law. However, Members should note that from May 2022, there will be a requirement that one third of the Committee are lay members (under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021).
10. The Committee can include no more than one Cabinet member, who may not be the Leader. The Governance and Audit Committee is subject to the political balance rules. Statutory Guidance recommends that all Members of the Committee should display independence of thinking and unbiased attitudes, and must recognise and understand the value of the audit function.

Financial Implications

11. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council is recommended:

12. To receive the recommendation of the Governance and Audit Committee for the appointment of an Independent Member to the committee; and
13. Subject to the receipt of satisfactory references, to appoint the recommended candidate as an Independent Member of the Governance and Audit Committee for an initial 5 year term of office, with the possibility of reappointment for one further 5 year term.

DAVINA FIORE

Director of Governance and Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

24 September 2021

Background Documents:

[Establishment of Standing Committees of The Council 2021-2022](#) – Annual Meeting of Council dated 27 May 2021

[Correspondence following the meeting](#) – Audit Committee dated 23 March 2021