

REPORT TO:	Standards Committee
REPORT NO:	HCCS/36/16
DATE:	3 March 2016
LEAD OFFICER:	Deputy Monitoring Officer
CONTACT OFFICER:	Sioned Wyn Davies, Legal Services Manager/ Deputy Monitoring Officer (Tel: 292221)
SUBJECT:	Recruitment of Independent Members
WARD:	N/A

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To consider the process for the recruitment of two new independent members on the Standards Committee.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The second consecutive term of office of two of the independent members of the Standards Committee, Mrs Ceri Nash and Ms Judy Cotter, expire later this year in December 2016 and in accordance with the Standards Committee (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 an independent member of a Standards Committee may only serve two consecutive terms of office.
- 2.2 The Council have to follow a statutory procedure for the recruitment of independent members, as required by the Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001 (as amended), and it will be necessary for the Council to embark on this prescribed process during the summer of 2016. This would involve advertising the position in two local newspapers, following which the Selection Panel established by the Council in September 2005 would interview all suitable applicants and subsequently the Panel's recommendation regarding the appointment would be considered by the Council.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 **That the report be noted and the suggested recruitment process endorsed.**
- 3.2 **That the specific membership of the Selection Panel for the current recruitment process be agreed.**

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

To ensure the Standards Committee is constituted in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 4.1 The second consecutive term of office of two of the independent members of the Standards Committee, Mrs Ceri Nash and Ms Judy Cotter, expire later this year in December 2016 and in accordance with the Standards Committee (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 an independent member of a Standards Committee may only serve two consecutive terms of office.
- 4.2 The Council will therefore have to follow the statutory procedure for recruitment of two new independent members as required by the Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001 (as amended).
- 4.3 The Regulations require the Council to advertise for the appointment of independent members in two local newspapers and to establish a selection Panel to consider applications received. The Council established a Selection Panel at its meeting on 28 September 2005, comprising:
- Mr Graham Binnie, Lay Panel Member;
The Community Council Member of the Standards Committee;
Two independent members and one County Borough Member of the Standards Committee (selected from the membership of the Standards Committee on a rota basis and subject to availability).
- 4.4 The Council requires Members to have undergone interview training prior to sitting on the Selection Panel.
- 4.5 The law requires that neither a current Officer nor Member, nor the spouse of an Officer or Member, of a local authority, may be an independent member of a Standards Committee. However, former Officers and Members of local authorities other than Wrexham are eligible provided that at least one year has expired after they cease to be an Officer/Member. Criteria over and above the statutory criteria for the appointment of independent members were agreed by the Council in 2001 and include a prohibition on political party activity or having had significant previous dealings with the Council or a close relationship with any Member or Officer of the Council. The Selection Panel must consider these criteria when considering appointments for the vacancy, and make recommendations to the Council for appointment.
- 4.6 The recommended timetable for the recruitment process is as follows:
- (a) Panel training 2 June 2016 – immediately prior to Committee meeting.
 - (b) End of June 2016 – Advertise vacancies.
 - (c) Mid/Late July 2016 – Interviews take place.
 - (d) September 2016 – Recommendation to the Council for appointment.

5 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 **Policy Framework** - Part 2 Article 9 of the Council's Constitution states the composition of the Standards Committee and terms of office for independent members.
- 5.2 **Budget** – The costs of advertising will need to be met from within existing budgets.
- 5.3 **Legal** - There are no specific implications.
- 5.4 **Staffing** - There are no specific implications.
- 5.5 **Equalities/Human Rights** - There are no specific equality and human rights issues arising from this report. Any impacts will be considered as part of EIA CCS/EIA00080/2015 - Committee Administrative Processes.
- 5.6 **Risks** - Not applicable

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Not applicable

BACKGROUND PAPERS	LOCATION	WEBSITE INFO.
Local Government Act 2000 Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001 (as amended).		