

REPORT TO:	Standards Committee
REPORT NO:	HCCS/55/17
DATE:	7 September 2017
LEAD OFFICER:	Monitoring Officer
CONTACT OFFICER:	Sioned Wyn Davies, Legal Services Manager/ Deputy Monitoring Officer (Tel: 292221)
SUBJECT:	Community Council Representative
WARD:	N/A

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To consider the reappointment of the current Community Council member on the Standards Committee following consultation with all Town and Community Councils and One Voice Wales.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 To consider the reappointment of the Community Council member on the Standards Committee in accordance with the Standards Committees (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 **That the Council be recommended to reappoint Councillor Geoff Edwards, Penycae Community Council, as the Community Council representative on the Standards Committee for the period up to the date of the next Community Council elections or until the Councillor ceases to be a member of a Community Council within the County Borough area, whichever is the shorter.**

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

To ensure the Standards Committee is constituted in accordance with the Standards Committees (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006.

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 4.1 The Standards Committees (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 (the Regulations) provide that where the Standards Committee discharges functions in relation to Community Councils, the membership of that Standards Committee must include at least one Community Council Member who is not also a member of the County Borough Council.
- 4.2 The Regulations also enable the Council to reappoint a Community Council member on the Standards Committees for one further consecutive term of office. However, before making a reappointment the Regulations do require the Council to have consulted all Community Councils and any Community Council Associations operating within its area before making a reappointment.
- 4.3 The first term of office of the current Community Council member on the Standards Committee, Councillor Geoff Edwards of Penycae Community Council, expired in September 2016. To ensure the Standards Committee was constituted in accordance with the Regulations and includes Community Council representation up to and following the local elections in May 2017, Councillor Edwards' term of office was temporarily extended up to the date of the Community Council elections in May 2017 and subsequently up to the date of the Council meeting in September 2017, subject to his re-election to a community council in the County Borough in May 2017.
- 4.4 At the Community Council elections in May 2017, Mr Geoff Edwards was re-elected to Penycae Community Council. The Standards Committee in July agreed that Councillor Edwards be reappointed as the Community Council member of the Standards Committee for a further term subject to consultation being undertaken with Community Councils and One Voice Wales during the summer of 2017, subject to the outcome of the consultation being reported back to the Committee at the beginning of September to enable a recommendation to be made to the Council meeting later the same month.

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 Councillor Edwards has been informed of the proposal and has indicated that he is happy to continue.
- 6.2 All Town and Community Councils and One Voice Wales were consulted and requested to submit any comments by 25 August. Responses were received from seven Town and Community Councils and all of these supported the proposed reappointment of Councillor Geoff Edwards.
- 6.3 The following response was received from One Voice Wales

‘Thank you for your message in relation to the reappointment of Councillor Geoff Edwards of Penycae Community Council as the representative for Community and Town Councils on the Wrexham CBC Standards Committee. As a membership organisation, any representations made by One Voice Wales are a result of consultation with our councils. Had the timing been different, then this matter would have been an item on the agenda of our Area Committee. This would have allowed me to gauge their response and report on it to you.

As things stand, our next meeting will be held on the 21st of September, therefore I was not able to do this. I did, however, forward your message to our Area Committee representatives. In response I received one message of support for the reappointment of Cllr Geoff Edwards, and one message raising concerns about certain aspects of the representation and selection process.

Due to these circumstances I cannot put forward either response on behalf of our Wrexham members as they have not been endorsed by the Area Committee. I understand that the process of filling the role on the Committee must go ahead, but ask that the Standards Committee give due attention to any correspondence the Area Committee may decide to send in future in relation to aspects of the representation of the sector on the Standards Committee and the selection process for this role.’

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