

GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

17TH DECEMBER 2021

APPOINTMENT OF LAY PERSONS TO THE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Recommendations / key decisions required:

- 1) To note the new requirement arising from the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 for one third of the Governance and Audit Committee membership to be made of lay persons, and for the Committee to be Chaired by a lay person from May 2022.
- 2) To recommend to the Council the Committee's preferred option as to the size of the Governance and Audit Committee to best meet the members/lay persons ratio.
- 3) To approve the arrangements the recruitment of lay persons to meet this requirement

Reasons:

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 requires one third of the members of the Governance and Audit Committee to be lay persons and for the lay person to be appointed as Committee Chair. This report outlines the arrangements for the size of the committee, and arrangements for the appointment of the additional lay members in readiness for this requirement of the Act to come into force on the 5th May 2022

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted: NO
 Cabinet Decision Required: NO
 Council Decision YES (Recommendation 2)

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Cllr David Jenkins (Resources)

<p>Directorate:</p> <p>Chief Executives/ Corporate Services</p> <p>Name of Head of Service:</p> <p>Linda Rees Jones</p> <p>Helen Pugh</p> <p>Report Authors:-</p> <p>Caroline Powell</p> <p>Gaynor Morgan</p>	<p>Designations:</p> <p>Head of Administration and Law</p> <p>Head of Revenues and Financial Compliance</p> <p>Principal Auditor</p> <p>Head of Democratic Services</p>	<p>Tel:</p> <p>Email addresses:</p> <p>LRJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p> <p>HLPugh@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p> <p>capowell@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p> <p>GMorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE 17TH DECEMBER 2021

APPOINTMENT OF LAY PERSONS TO THE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

On the 26th March 2021 the Committee considered a report on changes to the Governance and Audit Committee as a result of the provisions within the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. That report made reference to the requirement to increase the number of lay members to one third of the Committee and for a lay person to be appointed as Committee Chair (coming into force in May 2022).

The Governance and Audit Committee currently comprises 8 members plus one external member with voting rights, so if the Committee is to remain at 8 members, this will result in a reduction in elected members to 5 and 3 lay persons.

Alternative options are a Committee of 12 members i.e. 8 Council Members and 4 lay members or 16 members i.e. 11 Council members and 5 lay members. Historically we have had 167 or 168 seats to allocate between elected members across committees so as best accommodate the number of seats for distribution, and if this is to be maintained we would recommend a Governance and Audit Committee of 12 members i.e. 8 elected members (as currently) and 4 lay persons.

The Committee is asked to approve the recruitment process with the view to the recruitment commencing as soon as possible, with the number of lay persons to be appointed being confirmed once the County Council has decided on the size of the Committee.

The recruitment process being recommended is

- a. as per the attached job profile,
- b. shortlisting to be done by one of the following options (as detailed below)
- c. in accordance with the functions delegated to the Committee, the Governance and Audit Committee will interview applicants for the positions of Lay Members of the Committee and will recommend appointments to the Council.

Shortlisting Option 1:-

a three member politically balanced Panel of Governance and Audit Committee Members (1 Plaid Cymru, 1 Labour and 1 Independent) with nominations for the Panel confirmed by the relevant Political Parties and notified to the Chief Executive and Head of Democratic Services.

Shortlisting Option 2:-

A cross party panel of 1 member per political group as represented on the Committee (1 Plaid Cymru, 1 Labour, 1 Independent and 1 New Independent) with nominations for the Panel confirmed by the relevant Political Parties and notified to the Chief Executive and Head of Democratic Services.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

**Advertisement – Appendix 1
Job Profile – Appendix 2**

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed

Linda Rees Jones Head of Administration and Law

Helen Pugh - Head of Revenues and Financial Compliance

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	YES	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

1. Legal

Chapter 2 of Part 6 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act requires one-third of the members of the Governance and Audit Committee to be lay persons and for the member appointed as the Committee Chair to be a lay person. These provisions within the Act come into force on the 5th May 2022 and forms the basis of this report.

2. Finance

The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales has determined that a daily or half daily fee is appropriate remuneration for the important role undertaken by co-opted members of authorities with voting rights.

Fees for co-opted members (with voting rights) are:-

Lay Chair of audit committees £268 (4 hours and over) £134 (up to 4 hours)

Ordinary co-opted members of audit committee £210 (4 hours and over) £105 (up to 4 hours)

Additional costs will need to be met from the existing Democratic budget with a growth bid for additional funding submitted if appropriate.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed

Linda Rees Jones Head of Administration and Law

Helen Pugh - Head of Revenues and Financial Compliance

- 1. Scrutiny Committee - N/A
- 2. Local Member(s) - N/A
- 3. Community / Town Council - N/A
- 4. Relevant Partners - N/A
- 5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations - N/A

**CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO
HOLDER AWARE/CONSULTED**

N/A

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
The Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021		https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asc/2021/1/contents/enacted
Audit Committee meeting 26 th March 2021		https://carmarthenshireintranet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=163&MId=4256&Ver=4