

**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2022**

**APPOINTMENT OF LAY PERSONS TO THE GOVERNANCE AND  
AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**Governance and Audit Committee Recommendation**

**TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL a Governance and Audit Committee of 12 members i.e. 8 elected members (as currently) and 4 lay persons to accord with 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.**

**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.

The Governance and Audit Committee considered a report on arrangements for the appointment of Lay Persons to the Committee at its meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and is making a recommendation to the Council on the Composition of the Committee going forward.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted: NO  
Cabinet Decision Required: NO  
Council Decision YES (Recommendation 2 of the report considered by the Committee on the 17/12/2021)

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Cllr David Jenkins (Resources)

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

## APPOINTMENT OF LAY PERSONS TO THE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

On the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021 the Governance & Audit 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 considered by the Governance and Audit Committee included 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 the Authority has 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 a Governance and Audit Committee of 12 members i.e. 8 elected members (as currently) and 4 lay persons is the best fit.

The Committee also approved the recruitment process. This recruitment process has already been commenced (approved job profile attached) - although the number of lay persons to be appointed will be confirmed once the County Council has decided on the size of the Committee. All Welsh Local Authorities will similarly be advertising for lay members.

Under the Authority's Constitution once Council has decided how many lay members should be recruited it will be for the Committee to shortlist (which will be done by a shortlisting Panel of the main Committee) and interview candidates (full Committee) and to recommend the ones to be appointed to County Council.

The Governance and Audit Committee's recommendation to Council is that a Governance and Audit Committee of 12 members be established i.e. 8 elected members (as currently) and 4 lay persons to accord with 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.

**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
<b>NONE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>

## 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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		<a href="https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asc/2021/1/contents/enacted">https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asc/2021/1/contents/enacted</a>
Audit Committee meeting 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2021		<a href="https://carmarthenshireintranet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=163&amp;MId=4256&amp;Ver=4">https://carmarthenshireintranet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=163&amp;MId=4256&amp;Ver=4</a>
Audit Committee Meeting 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2021		<a href="https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=163&amp;MId=4573&amp;Ver=4">https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=163&amp;MId=4573&amp;Ver=4</a>