

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: STANDARDS COMMITTEE

DATE: MONDAY, 8 APRIL 2013

REPORT BY: MONITORING OFFICER

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENTS TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.00 To make appointments to fill existing and forthcoming independent member vacancies on the Standards Committee.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 The vacancy for independent members on the Standards Committee was advertised in two local newspapers. 31 requests for information packs were received and 13 completed applications were returned. A copy of the information pack sent to candidates is attached at Appendix 1.

2.02 The Appointments Panel considered all applicants on the basis of the following published criteria:

- Be of good character and integrity
- Listening skills
- Ability to understand and weigh up evidence
- Ability to come to an objective view and explain that view by reference to the evidence
- Team working skills
- Respect for others and an understanding of diverse issues
- Be discrete
- Not actively participate in local or national politics
- Not have had significant previous disputes with the Authority
- Not have a close relationship with any member/officer of the Authority

2.03 The Appointments Panel consisted of the Chair of the Council, the current Acting Chair of the Standards Committee and a "lay member", with advice from the Monitoring Officer. The lay member is a person who is not a councillor or co-opted member and must be part of the panel under the relevant regulations. The lay member must be selected using open recruitment. We used Wrexham County Borough Council's lay member who had been through the necessary selection

process.

- 2.04 One post on the Committee became vacant in December 2012. A second post fell vacant in February and a third post will become vacant in November. If sufficient numbers of suitable applicants become available then it would be the intention of the Council to appoint one member for 4 years, one for 5 and one for 6 years.

A fourth vacancy has become available. One independent member wishes to stand down due to an increased level of demand from another public body of which he is a member, which is making it difficult for him to attend meetings of this Committee.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.01 There are three vacant posts with effect from May 2013 and the fourth post will become vacant from December 2013. The maximum term of appointment is up to 6 years. So that the positions do not all fall vacant at once it might be better to stagger the terms of office at 4, 5 and 6 years.

- 3.02 I have contacted each of the candidates and understandably their preference is all to start in May. Notwithstanding this, one will have to start in December. Only Mr Molyneux has expressed a preference in respect of term of office, choosing 5 years. I would therefore recommend that the two candidates scoring most highly at interview are appointed for 6 years and that the terms of office and start dates should be as set out below.

<u>Candidates</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Term of Office</u>
Mr Robert Arnold Dewey	May	4 years
Mrs Phillipa Ann Earlam	May	6 years
Mr Edward Michael Hughes	May	6 years
Mr Kenneth Harry Molyneux	December	5 years

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 That the County Council appoints four persons as independent members with the start dates and terms of office as shown below.

<u>Candidates</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Term of Office</u>
Mr Robert Arnold Dewey	May	4 years
Mrs Phillipa Ann Earlam	May	6 years
Mr Edward Michael Hughes	May	6 years
Mr Kenneth Harry Molyneux	December	5 years

- 4.02 That the retiring members be thanked for their invaluable service on the Standards Committee.

4.03 That the lay member be thanked for his involvement in recruiting the new members.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 None

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 None

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 None

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 None

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 The preferred candidates will be given induction training.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 None

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 All Group Leaders have been consulted.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 None

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None

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