

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: STANDARDS COMMITTEE

DATE: MONDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 2012

REPORT BY: MONITORING OFFICER

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF TOWN & COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.01 To select a representative from the Town & Community Councils to serve on the Standards Committee.
- 1.02 To amend the process for appointing such representatives.

2.00 BACKGROUND

- 2.01 The Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001 (as amended) require the Council to appoint a Town/Community representative to its Standards Committee and for that representative to be present when the committee decides any matter relating to Town and/or Community Councils/Councillors. They also require that before appointing such a member the County Council must consult the Community Councils in its area.
- 2.02 At the AGM on the 13 May 2008 it was resolved that the following process should be used to appoint a representative of the Town and Community Councils to serve on the Standards Committee:

The monitoring Officer recommended that the Panel be appointed comprising:-

- Retiring Member of the Standards Committee representing Town and Community Councils.
- The Chairman or vice-Chairman of the Council
- The Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Standards Committee of a neighbouring authority.

The Council endorsed this suggestion.

RESOLVED

- a) That the Council re-affirm the existing arrangement for the appointment of their three representatives, with one from each of the main political groups, be approved.

- b) That the nominations be Councillors D Cox, D Mackie and S R Baker.
- c) That a Panel be appointed as detailed in the report for the appointment of a new Member, be approved.
- d) That the Monitoring Officer be given delegated authority to make all necessary arrangements.

This procedure had also been used to recruit the previous representative.

- 2.03 The previous Town/Community representative ceased to be a Community Councillor at the elections in May as she did not stand for re-election. Consequently, she can no longer serve as the Town/Community representative. The Head of Legal & Democratic Services therefore wrote to all Town and Community Councils on the 21 June 2012 providing information about the role (attached as appendix 1) and seeking nominations by the 31 July 2012.
- 2.04 9 nominations were received and the Head of Legal & Democratic Services short-listed 7 applicants. The recruitment panel met on 28th August 2012 and interviewed 6 applicants, 1 having withdrawn. The recruitment panel was seeking a candidate who was independent of the County Council and who also possessed the following qualities:
- 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 understanding of diverse issues
 - Discretion
 - Personal integrity
- 2.05 The name of the preferred candidate will be submitted at the meeting
- 2.06 Whilst the previous procedure has been used twice, it does seem strange that Flintshire County Council's own independent Chair of the Standards Committee is not involved. When recruiting future Town and Community representatives the suggestion would be that the procedure set out at appendix 2 is used, and, that in the interests of openness, the process be included in Part 2, Article X of the Constitution.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.01 The name of the preferred candidate will be submitted at the meeting.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 That the preferred candidate be recommended to Council as the Town/Community representative to serve until the second County Council meeting after the AGM following the next County Council elections.
- 4.02 That Mrs Diane Johnson be thanked for her service on the Standards Committee and in the recruitment of her successor.
- 4.03 That the Chair of the Standards Committee from Wrexham County Borough Council be thanked for his involvement in recruiting the Town/Community representative.
- 4.04 That the procedure attached at Appendix 2 be recommended to Council for incorporation into the Constitution.

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 candidate will be given induction training.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

- 10.01 Town and Community Councils.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

- 11.01 All Group Leaders have been consulted.

12.00 APPENDICES

- 12.01 Appendix 1 - Letter to T&C Councils dated 21 June 2012
Appendix 2 - Standards Committee recruitment procedure

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

As referred to in the report.

Contact Officer: Gareth Owens
Telephone: 01352 702344
Email: gareth.owens@flintshire.gov.uk