

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 23 rd January 2024
Report Subject	Recruitment of a Town and Community Council Representative to the Standards Committee
Report Author	Chief Officer (Governance)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Standards Committee needs to include one member who represents the Town and Community Councils within Flintshire. Following the elections in 2022 we appointed a representative from Trelawnyd and Gwaenysgor Community Council. Unfortunately, he has to step down for personal reasons and so the Council must appoint a replacement.

It is proposed to follow the same process as last time for appointment. All Town and Community Councils will be asked for nominees and then each council will be given a 1st and 2nd preference vote in order to conclude the process in a single round of voting.

To 'get the ball rolling' clerks have already been approached for nominees.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That the proposed appointment process be endorsed.
2	That Cllr Ian Papworth be thanked for his work on the Standards Committee.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE RECRUITMENT OF A TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE
1.01	The Standards Committee (Wales) Regulations 2006 (as amended) require the County Council to appoint a representative of the Town and

	Community Councillors in its area. The representative cannot be “dual hatted” i.e. they cannot also be a County Councillor.
1.02	The current Town and Community Council representative, Cllr Ian Papworth, from Trelawnyd and Gwaenysgor Community Council, was appointed in October 2022. He now needs to stand down from his role as a community councillor and as representative on the Standards Committee due to personal reasons. The County Council therefore needs to appoint a replacement.
1.03	The process for appointing such a representative is not specified in the legislation. To give the Town and Community Councils control over who will represent them we have used a process whereby they vote for the representative (rather than, for example, the County Council holding interviews).
1.04	In 2022 we used a simple two preference system so that, in the event of one or more candidates having an equal number of votes, there would be a second preference vote to help break the tie. Holding a second round of voting would be an alternative way of breaking the tie but it would add (at least) an extra month into the process as we would have to wait for another round of town and community council meetings to take place.
1.05	In order to “get the ball rolling” I have already written to town and community clerks asking for nominations. The nominees will be asked to prepare a pen portrait to help inform the voting process. These are due by the end of January, and I would propose to hold the vote during February with an appointment being made at the March meeting (if held) or in April.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	The process adopted is not resource intensive. The costs are therefore minimal and easily absorbed.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	One Voice Wales must be consulted before an appointment can be made. On the last occasion, One Voice Wales commented - “The process which you have adopted seems very fair and reasonable and ... represents an effective way of determining which of the nominations is to be approved.”

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	The process gives a high level of influence to the Town and Community Councils which should help them feel engaged by the process. The recruitment process does not ask for any specific qualifications or any relevant experience. However, as the role is representative, the main

	<p>criterion for appointment can be said to be the status of being a Town or Community Councillor. All further training will be provided in any event as part of the development programme for Committee members thereby addressing any current lack of knowledge or experience.</p>
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5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>None.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Gareth Owens, Chief Officer (Governance) Telephone: 01352 702344 E-mail: gareth.legal@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	<p>One Voice Wales – the membership/representative body for Town and Community Councils in Wales. It provides advice and training as well as acting as spokes body for the sector.</p>