



FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 27 September 2022
Report Subject	Co-opted Member of the Standards Committee
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Corporate Management
Report Author	Chief Officer (Governance)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council must appoint people who are not Councillors to the Standards Committee (amongst others). This is so that these Committees are seen to be more independent and apart from the internal politics of the Council.

The term of office for one of those co-opted members runs out in December. The member is eligible to be reappointed for a further term. Thereafter, the person must stand down because a co-optee cannot serve more than two terms of office under the relevant legislation.

The co-optee is the current chair of the Committee, has worked hard in the role and has made a beneficial contribution to the governance of the Council. She is willing to serve a further term if re-appointed. If not reappointed then the Council must externally advertise the role and establish a recruitment panel to make recommendations to Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Council reappoints Julia Hughes to the Standards Committee for five years.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	Explaining the requirement to appoint co-optees
1.01	Under the Standards Committee (Wales) Regulations 2001 (as amended) the Committee must include a majority of co-optees (termed “Independent Members” within the legislation). Those co-optees must be recruited via advertisement at first but then can be reappointed for a second term without re-advertising the position.
1.02	The Council has appointed a number of such co-optees following advert. They have been appointed at varying times so that their positions do not all fall vacant at once (resulting in a complete loss of their combined experience). The next term of office to expire will be Julia Hughes, the current chair of the Committee, whose term ends in December 2022.
1.03	Julia Hughes is an active chair and is well regarded by the Committee and is willing to serve again.
1.06	If the Council does not reappoint Mrs Hughes, then it will need to advertise that position in the local press. When the Council has advertised a similar vacancy recently there was a positive response. The Council would also need to create an appointment panel and I would suggest that should consist of the Chair of Council, the Chair of the Committee (himself a co-optee) plus one or two elected Members. In addition, any panel to appoint a co-optee to the Standards Committee, must include a lay person who has themselves been recruited via advert.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	If the Council does not reappoint the incumbent then it will need to advertise the vacancies in the local press. The adverts for similar vacancies cost £5416.02.
2.02	The role descriptions and adverts used last time are still available. They would need a updating but it would be possible to place an advert relatively quickly.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	None.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	The interview process includes a number of restrictions on candidates to ensure that only people who are truly independent of the Council may be appointed, and careful interviewing is used to ensure that candidates of the right calibre are selected.
4.02	Adverts would be placed bilingually in order to attract applications from Welsh speakers, and would be sent to local community groups representing people with disabilities to ensure that no potential candidate is accidentally excluded by the medium through which the vacancies are advertised.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Not relevant Contact Officer: Gareth Owens, Chief Officer Governance Telephone: 01352 702344 E-mail: Gareth.legal@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	Co-optee – the Council consists of a Chairperson and 66 Members who are all elected. By contrast, legislation sometimes provides for a person to be appointed to a Committee without being elected through a process called co-option.