

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 18 October 2022
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, we needed to select a new representative because the previous member had served 2 terms.

All Councils were asked whether they wished to nominate candidates. 6 were nominated. Each then prepared a pen portrait, which was sent to all Town and Community Councils.

Councils were asked to select their 1st preference candidate. The candidate with the most 1st preference votes would be chosen. In case this produced a tie they were also asked to nominate their 2nd preference candidate, which could be used to choose between any candidates with an equal number of 1st preference votes.

Cllr Ian Papworth from Trelawnyd and Gwaenysgor Community Council had a clear majority of both 1st and 2nd preference votes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That candidates be thanked for their interest.
2	That Cllr Ian Papworth be appointed as the Town and Community Council representative until the elections in May 2027.

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 previous Town and Community Council representative from Caerwys Town Council had served the maximum two terms. He therefore stood down at the elections in May.		
1.03	The process for appointing such a representative is not specified in the legislation. In order to give the Town and Community Councils control over who would represent them a process whereby they voted for the representative was chosen (rather than, for example, the County Council holding interviews). A simple 2 preference system was adopted 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.		
1.04	Following the elections all Town and Community Councils were therefore asked if they wished to nominate a candidate by the 29 July. 7 candidates were originally nominated though 1 subsequently withdrew. Those 6 candidates were asked to prepare a pen portrait of no more than 250 words so that the Town and Community Councils could choose between them. The deadline for receipt of portraits was the 5 August.		
1.05	The pen portraits were circulated on 10 August and Councils were asked to indicate their first and second preference by the 30 September. 20 Councils did so by the deadline. The results are as set out in the table below. Cllr Ian Papworth is the clear winner on first preference votes, and the result would be the same based on second preference votes as well.		
	Votes		
	Name	1st	2nd
	Cllr Ros Griffiths	4	2 (3)
	Cllr Jayne Morris	2	2 (2)
	Cllr Ray Faulder-Jones	4	2 (3)
	Cllr Lynda Carter	2	1 (2)
	Cllr Pat Connah	2	2 (3)
	Cllr Ian Papworth	6	5 (6)
1.06	A number of Councils found that results for the second preference were tied. Rather than find a way to break the tie, and provide a clear second preference vote, they sent a tied result. We have discounted those tied		

	<p>results because they do not indicate the candidate to whom the vote should be given. However, in order to see whether this would have impacted the result we have allocated one extra vote to those with a tied result (number in brackets show result after tied votes are added). As can be seen, even after they have been applied it would not have changed the result on either first or second preference votes.</p>
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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	<p>One Voice Wales must be consulted before the appointment can be made. I have outlined both the process and the result. One Voice Wales commented -</p> <p>“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.”</p>

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	<p>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 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>

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Pen Portraits.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Insert any hyperlinks to supporting documents if necessary.</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	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.