

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday, 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2023
<b>Report Subject</b>	Appointment of a Lay Person to the Governance and Audit Committee
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Governance)

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 requires the Council to ensure that 1/3 of members on the Governance and Audit Committee are Lay Members.

The term of office for one of the existing Lay Members expires in May 2023, having already served five years. The Lay Member is willing to serve for a further term if the Council is willing to re-appoint her.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1	That Council reappoints the Lay Member for another three years until 31 May 2026.
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## **REPORT DETAILS**

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE APPOINTMENT OF LAY MEMBERS</b>
1.01	The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 requires the Council to ensure that, with effect from May 2022, 1/3 of the members of the Governance and Audit Committee are Lay Members. The Committee contains three Lay Members at present.
1.02	One of the existing Lay Members, Sally Ellis, was appointed by the Council in May 2017 for a period of five years. Her term of office therefore expired in May 2022. She has been a diligent and active member of the Committee and is its current chair. She is willing to serve again if the Council is willing to reappoint her.
1.03	In order to allow Councillors time to “settle in” and time for mature consideration of the skills mix on the Committee, Sally Ellis was re-appointed for 12 months. Members having had nearly 12 months experience of the Committee and her as chair.
1.04	If she is re-appointed, it is suggested that it should be for a further period of three years so that we recruit for a replacement in 2026 before the next elections. If she is not re-appointed the Council will need to recruit a replacement and would need to extend Sally Ellis’s term to cover that recruitment.

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	Each recruitment exercise costs around (£3,500 – £4,000) and requires support from both Councillors (typically a panel of five) and officers. However, it is the optimum manner to openly and transparently appoint to vacancies.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	The Chair of the Governance and Audit Committee.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	The key risks are that the Council does not recruit to the third position and that it loses the existing experienced Lay Member. Should the Committee not have sufficient Lay Members then its acts/decisions will be invalid (section 82(6) Local Government Measure 2011).

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	None.

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

<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	<p><b>Lay Member</b> – is defined by the Local Government Measure 2011 as a person who is not a member of the Council i.e. not already an elected Councillor.</p> <p><b>WLGA</b> – the representative body for all County and County Borough Councils in Wales. As well as representative role it also co-ordinates activity especially where all councils need to undertake a common task (e.g. recruiting Lay Members).</p>