

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 20 November 2018
Report Subject	Reappointment of a Standards Committee Independent Member
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Corporate Management
Report Author	Chief Officer (Governance)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council must appoint people who are not Councillors to, amongst others, the Standards Committee. This is so that the committee is seen to be more independent. There are 5 such positions on the Standards Committee.

The term of office for one of those co-opted members runs out in December. The incumbent is eligible to be reappointed for a further term. Thereafter, the person must stand down as a co-optee cannot serve more than two terms of office under the relevant legislation. In addition, the legislation relating to Standards Committees currently specifies that the second term of office can be a maximum of four years.

The co-optee has worked hard in his role and has made a beneficial contribution to the governance of the Council. He is willing to serve a further term if re-appointed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Council reappoints Ken Molyneux to the Standards Committee for four 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 appointed a number of co-optees in 2013 following advert. They were appointed for varying terms so that their positions did not all fall vacant at the same time (resulting in a complete loss of their combined experience). The next term of office to expire will be Ken Molyneux, whose term comes to an end in December 2018.
1.03	Mr Molyneux plays an active part in the work of the committee, is well regarded by the other committee members and is willing to serve again.
1.06	If the Council does not reappoint Mr Molyneux, then it will need to advertise that position in the local press. The Council would also need to create an appointment panel and I would suggest that it 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 a similar vacancy last year cost £3600 (though this cost was shared with the Fire Authority).
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 chairman and 69 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.