

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Date of Meeting	Thursday 22 nd July 2021
Report Subject	Appointment of an Independent Member to the Standards Committee
Report Author	Chief Officer (Governance)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

There is a vacancy for an Independent Member (co-optee) on the Standards Committee. In accordance with the regulations, advertisements were placed in the local press, and also on line.

In total there were four applicants of whom three were shortlisted and interviewed. Two candidates were suitable for appointment following interview, and it is recommended that Jacqueline Guest and David Davies be appointed.

Jacqueline Guest will commence her appointment immediately and will fill the current vacancy on the Committee. David Davies' appointment will be effective from 1st January 2022 when an existing Independent Member has indicated they intend to step down.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Jacqueline Guest be appointed to the Standards Committee until the 21st July 2027.
2	That David Davies be appointed to the Standards Committee until the 31st December 2027.
3	That Noela Jones be thanked for acting as Lay Person on the Committee
4	That Phillipa Earlam be thanked for her work on the Committee.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE RECRUITMENT PROCESS
1.01	<p>The Standards Committee consists of –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 elected Councillors;• 5 Independent Members who are co-opted following advertisement.• 1 Town and Community Council representative
1.02	<p>There is currently a vacancy for an Independent Member. The vacancy was advertised in the press (as required) and also on line and through the network of Standards Committees in North Wales. Four applications were received in total. Unfortunately one applicant did not meet all the criteria for appointment and so was not invited to interview. The remaining 3 applicants were interviewed.</p>
1.03	<p>The Interview Panel was constituted earlier in the year to undertake the appointment process, and continued in the role to complete the process. The Panel consisted of the immediate past Chair of the Council, two Independent Members of the Standards Committee, a County Councillor (Cllr Paul Johnson), and a Lay Person. The Lay Person is a statutory requirement and must be someone who is themselves recruited by open advertisement. In this instance the Lay Person was Noela Jones who fulfils the role for a number of authorities in North Wales.</p> <p>The Chief Officer Governance was also in attendance to support and advise.</p>
1.04	<p>Two applicants were of a high quality and stood out by reason of their experience and interpersonal skills. Ostensibly there was only one vacancy on the Committee, but a member who is due to complete her second term in 2022 offered to step down early in order to save the Council the expense of a further recruitment exercise.</p> <p>The interview panel was therefore unanimous in recommending that both Jacqueline Guest and David Davies be appointed. Pen portraits for each are attached at Appendices 1 and 2.</p>
1.05	<p>An Independent Member can be appointed for between 4 and 6 years in their first term, and, if reappointed, for a maximum of 4 years in their second term. So that the retirement dates of the Independent Members is staggered (preventing a mass loss of experience at any one time), officers recommend that Jacqueline Guest be appointed for the maximum period in their first term. That is to say it is recommended that she is appointed until 21st July 2027.</p>
1.06	<p>To facilitate succession planning and the transfer of experience, the existing Independent Member who has offered to step down early, will remain in position until December 2021, allowing the two Independent Members appointed this year to settle in to their positions. David Davies has kindly agreed to defer his appointment, and it is recommended that he be appointed from 1st January 2022 until 31st December 2027.</p>

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2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	The cost of placing the advert in the local press (as required by the legislation) was £5,416.02.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	None.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	The application pack specified the essential characteristics required for the position of Independent Member. Each applicant's suitability was assessed using both the application form and a mix of pre-set interview questions (which were drafted to bring out each requirement) and follow up questions.
4.02	The advert and application pack were published bilingually, and the shortlisted candidates were offered the opportunity to be interviewed in Welsh.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Pen Portrait of Jacqueline Nia Guest Appendix 1 – Pen Portrait of David Wynn Davies

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Application pack and advert. Contact Officer: Gareth Owens Telephone: 01352 702344 E-mail: Gareth.legal@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	Independent Member - a member of the Standards Committee selected following an open recruitment process, and appointed by reason of his/her skills and experience.