

GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday, 26 September 2024
Report Subject	Nominating Members to the Corporate Joint Committee's own Governance and Audit Committee
Report Author	Chief Officer (Governance)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The legislation requiring the council to appoint a Governance & Audit Committee (GAC) also applies to the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC). Membership of the committee must therefore include Lay Members.

The CJC wishes to establish a GAC with 6 councillors and 3 Lay Members. It wants to co-opt the members for its GAC from amongst the members of the GAC's in the 6 North Wales councils. We have been asked to nominate 1 councillor. We have also been asked whether we wish to nominate a Lay Member.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	The Committee nominates 1 councillor to serve on the Governance & Audit Committee of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee and 1 councillor to serve as a substitute.
2	The Committee decides whether it wishes to nominate a Lay Member to the Governance & Audit Committee of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
1.01	The Local Government Measure 2011 requires all authorities to which it applies to establish an Audit Committee, and these were renamed Governance and Audit Committees (GAC) by the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. Those same pieces of legislation respectively require the appointment of at least one Lay Member and increase that requirement for Lay Members to constitute 1/3 of the membership of the GAC.

1.02	The CJC is bound by those pieces of legislation and has resolved to establish its own GAC (although it is termed a sub-committee). The terms of reference for the GAC are attached at Appendix 1. The GAC will consist of 6 elected councillors and 3 Lay Members.
1.03	The GAC is required to meet at least once per year and is scheduled to meet once per quarter. Meetings are expected to take no more than 2 hours. Meetings will take place virtually. IT support will be provided.
1.04	Whilst the CJC itself consists of the Leaders of Council, its committees and sub-committees are drawn from the wider membership of the 6 North Wales councils. It has decided that it would like the membership of its GAC to be drawn from the members who are on the GAC of the constituent councils.
1.05	Quorum for the GAC will be 7 members of whom there must be a least 1 person from every council and 1 Lay Member. The CJC would therefore like 2 councillor nominees from each GAC. The first will serve as the principal nominee to the GAC and the second councillor will serve as a substitute when the principal nominee cannot attend meetings.
1.06	The CJC has also asked each council whether it wishes to nominate a Lay Member. A brief introduction to the role and the role description are attached at appendix 2. The CJC will pay the hourly rates prescribed by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales for the work undertaken by Lay Members, who, of course, are paid for the time they spend on official duties rather than receiving an annual allowance/salary.
1.07	Should there be more than the required number of 3 then the CJC will choose which Lay Members to appoint based on their resumé. A template is attached to show the sort of information that is required.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	The revenue implications of the requirement to appoint a GAC will be borne by the CJC though, of course, its budget is provided by the 6 councils.

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	This report has no applicable impacts.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	This report does not impact directly on the public and so no consultation has been carried out.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 - Terms of Reference for the CJC Governance & Audit Sub Committee Appendix 2 - Background information for Lay Members and Role Description for Lay Member Appendix 3 - Integrated Impact Assessment tool

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	-

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Gareth Owens, Chief Officer Governance Telephone: 01352 702344 E-mail: Gareth.legal@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	<p>Governance & Audit Committee- a committee established to ensure that the council properly manages it finances, risks and complaints processes.</p> <p>Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales- the body appointed to determine rates of pay for councillors and co-opted members of Welsh public authorities.</p> <p>Lay Member - lay members are from the council and have no business connection with it, although knowledge of how local government functions is an advantage. They are co-opted (recruited) by the authority rather than being elected.</p>