

SUBJECT:	INDEPENDENT MEMBERS RECRUITMENT
MEETING:	STANDARDS COMMITTEE 17 DEC 18
DATE OF REPORT:	6 DEC 18
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report aims to give an outline on the constitution of the Standards Committee and an update on the recruitment process for 2 new Independent Members of the Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The committee is requested to approve the following timeline:

- a. the positions will be advertised via MCC social media immediately and a press release made available at the same time. Adverts will be placed in early Jan;
- b. the deadline for applications will be 8 Feb;
- c. a panel sift will take place week commencing 11 Feb – panel members will be decided in accordance with the regulations below based on availability nearer the time;
- d. recommendations will be submitted to Council for approval on 7 Mar;
- e. the next Standards Committee will take place 18 Mar.

and decide:

- f. whether an interview process is required, provisionally to be conducted week commencing 25 Feb. If an interview is not required, then it is proposed the above deadlines be put back by one week.

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 MCC's Constitution Part B Article 9 reflects the regulations regarding Standards Committees set out in Statutory Instrument 2001 No. 2283 (W.172) The Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001.
- 3.2 The regulations provide that a Standards Committee comprise between 5 and 9 members and that at least half be independent members. There are currently 7 members of MCC's Standards Committee: 3 County Councillors, 1 Town/Community Councillor and 3 Independent Members.
- 3.3 Two new independent members are to be appointed. The regulations require that these posts be advertised in not less than 2 newspapers that circulate in the area that are not published by the authority. The roles will be advertised against a predetermined criteria.
- 3.4 A panel of no more than 5 people will consider every application. One panel member must be a lay panel member, another must be a Town or Community Councillor. That panel will then make recommendations to the authority at Full Council.
- 3.5 The criteria and advert are both written and predominantly the same as those used for the last selections made.

4. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION

- 4.1 A correctly constituted Standards Committee is a legal requirement and fundamental to the governance of local government. The criteria will demand a high calibre individual to fill each post, but there will be no bar to selection based upon any other criteria or protected characteristic.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 5.1 Do nothing. The current make up of the Committee is legally sound, though leaves little consideration for redundancy. Indeed, if all members of the Committee currently attend, one of the County or Town/Community Councillors would have to attend as an observing member, which is not the most efficient use of members' time and commitment.
- 5.2 Select other members for the Committee. The committee cannot number more than 9 so there is only space to recruit 2 more members. As at least half of attendees at committee must be independent to ensure it is quorate, the currently vacant 2 positions must be filled by independent members.

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Committee members are entitled to £198 Daily Fee £99 half day fee and the advertising costs are estimated to be in the region of £2,000.

Matt Phillips
Head of Law and Monitoring Officer
matthewphillips@monmothshire.gov.uk