

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENTS

MEETING: Council

DATE: 19th January 2023

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek Council ratification or appointment for Council Committees, roles and external bodies.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Council approve the following:

- a. Councillors Armand Watts and Penny Jones be appointed to the regional scrutiny function for the Gwent Public Service Board (PSB);
- b. Councillor Ian Chandler be ratified as the MCC LGBTQI+ Champion;
- c. Mr Richard Stow be appointed to serve for a further 4-year term as an Independent Member of the MCC Standards Committee;
- d. Mr Rhodri Guest is appointed to the MCC Governance and Audit Committee.

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 Appendix 1 is a report prepared by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council which was presented to the Gwent PSB on 29th September 2022. The report outlines the need for a regional scrutiny committee to scrutinise the work of the Gwent PSB. It was accepted with a view to commencing in early 2023.
- 3.2 The appended report requires 2 members be appointed by each local authority in accordance with the Local Authorities (Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2013, reflecting as far as is practicable the political balance of that Authority. Up to now, scrutiny has been undertaken within each Local Authority.
- 3.3 The matter was briefly discussed at the Public Services Scrutiny Committee and the proposal of Councillors Armand Watts and Penny Jones reflect both the political balance requirement and were considered most appropriate as the Chair and Vice Chair of MCC's Committee that is tasked with the scrutiny of local activities under the Gwent well-being plan 2023-2028.
- 3.4 Councillor Ian Chandler has agreed to fulfil a new role for MCC as the LGBTQI+ Champion. This paper seeks to ratify that position simply so there is parity with the Armed Forces Champion role that is contained within the annual Appointment to Outside Bodies report and in accordance with the local choice functions within the Constitution.

- 3.5 Mr Richard Stow has been an Independent Member of the Standards Committee since 19th January 2017 and is currently the Chair. His contribution both to MCC's Committee and to the pan-Wales review of the ethical standards framework, and support to the Monitoring Officer, is of significant value and highly respected.
- 3.6 The regulations relating to Independent Members require an initial term of 6 years and, if the Member is willing, offers the possibility of a second term of 4 years. A second term is strongly recommended.
- 3.7 The Local Government and Elections Act 2021 changed the name and construct of the Audit Committee to Governance and Audit Committee, with an increase for MCC from one lay Member to 4.
- 3.8 Three of those lay Members were appointed following an appropriate process and subsequently ratified by Council a year ago. This is the fourth such appointment having followed that same process and Mr Rhodri Guest was the successful applicant. His ratification by Council is strongly recommended.

4. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING)

- 4.1 The appointments outlined above have a definable benefit to the criteria of the Future Generations and Equality legislation. Specifically so in the appointment of Councillor Chandler as the Champion for people who would fall within the criteria set out by the legislation regarding protected criteria, and more broadly through the involvement of wider scrutiny functions across the region and also the appointment of lay Members to MCC's governance framework.

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6. REASONS

- 6.1 To fulfil:
- a. the legislative requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and to ensure effective scrutiny arrangements are in place;
 - b. greater representation of residents of the County;
 - c. the legislative requirements of the Local Government Act 2000 pertaining to Standards Committees;
 - d. the legislative requirements of the Local Government and Elections Act 2021 pertaining to Governance and Audit Committees.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Co-opted Members are permitted to claim expenses for their work in accordance with the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales criteria.

8. CONSULTEES

Public Services Scrutiny Committee
Cabinet
Governance and Audit Committee
Cllr Chandler

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 Appendix 1: Report to the Gwent Public Services Board 29.9.22- Development of a Regional Scrutiny Committee
- 9.2 [Guidance on the scrutiny of public services boards | GOV.WALES.](#)
- 9.3 <https://www.gov.wales/independent-remuneration-panel-wales-annual-report-2022-2023>

10. AUTHORS

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11. CONTACT DETAILS

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