

**MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
REPORT**

SUBJECT:	STANDARDS COMMITTEE – INDEPENDENT MEMBERS – APPOINTMENT PANEL
MEETING:	COUNTY COUNCIL
DATE:	20th OCTOBER 2016
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	COUNTYWIDE

1. PURPOSE:

Two new independent members of the Standards Committee are required to be appointed following the completion of the terms of office of two current independent members on 13th January 2016. Members are asked to recommend criteria for appointment and to establish a Panel to make recommendations to the Council for appointment.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To appoint three elected members to a Panel for the purposes of Regulations 15 and 16 of the Standards Committee (Wales) Regulations 2001.
- 2.2 To ask One Voice Wales to appoint a Community Council member to the Panel.
- 2.3 That the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the political group leaders, appoints a lay member to the Panel.
- 2.4 To adopt and publish criteria for the appointment of the independent members to the Standards Committee that require:

Political independence; the ability to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of legislation and guidance relating to Codes of Conduct in public life; experience in a role with public accountability; ability to challenge the Council in relation to its standards in a fair and consistent way; understanding and respect for confidentiality; demonstration of personal and financial integrity.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 The Council has established a Standards Committee comprising three elected members, one community member (a Town or Community Councillor) and five independent members.
- 3.2 The current chair of the committee has had to resign from the committee as she has served the statutory maximum of two terms on the committee. There is also a further vacancy on the committee as the current member does not wish to serve a second term.

- 3.3 The Council is required to publish criteria for the appointment of independent members in at least two local newspapers.
- 3.4 The Council is required to appoint a panel of not more than five members to consider and make recommendations on applications for appointment as an independent member. The Panel must include one Community Council member and a “lay Panel member” who is not and has not been a member, co-opted member or officer (or the spouse of a member or an officer) of any Unitary Authority, Fire or National Park Authority or Community Council.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Advertising costs of about £1000. The Chair of the Standards Committee receives a daily allowance of £256 (pro rata for half day), and a member receives £198 (pro rata for half day).

5. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:

There are no significant equality impacts identified.

6. SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS:

None.

7. CONSULTEES:

None

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None

9. AUTHOR:

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