

Meeting	Council
Date	15 June 2017
Subject	Appointment of Elected and Community Members to the Standards Committee
Cabinet Member	Deputy Leader : Cllr Mair Rowlands
Author	Monitoring Officer

Background

1. The membership of the Standards Committee is made up as follows:

- 5 'Independent Members' (i.e. members without any connection with local government).
- 1 “Community Member”, who is a member on any of Gwynedd’s community councils (but not a member of Gwynedd Council).
- 3 “Elected Members” from Gwynedd Council

2. Following the election there are 3 vacancies for “Elected Members” of Gwynedd Council. In addition, the seat for the Community Committee Members is also vacant following the expiration of Cllr David Clay’s final term.

Elected Members

3. The appointment procedure, endorsed by Full Council, is for the Monitoring Officer to write to all members of the Council inviting applications. The applications are presented to the Business Group for consideration. The Business Groups recommendation is then presented to the Full Council, which has the power to make the appointment.

4. Members are not appointed on the basis of political balance but by reference to the criteria established by the Council in accordance with a statutory duty. A copy of the present criteria is appended as **Appendix 1**.

5. All members of the Council were written to on the on 16th of May 2017 inviting applications by 26 May at the latest.

6. One application was received for consideration by the Business Group namely by Councillor Dewi Roberts, Abersoch. The Business group agreed to recommend that he be appointed as an Elected Member of the Standards Committee

Community Members

7. Although initial work to prepare the way took place before the election all Community Councils were subsequently contacted formally seeking nominations for this role. In addition, Unllais Cymru were also consulted.

8. The Council decided on an appointment process in 2012 and the details are set out in Appendix 1. The procedure for appointing a Community Member to the Standards Committee is being followed and the Panel meets on the 12th of June to interview applicants. The Council will be presented with a recommendation following these interviews.

Recommendations

- 1. Appoint Councillor Dewi Roberts, Abersoch to act as an Elected Member of the Standards Committee for the term of the Council.**
- 2. Appoint the community councillor recommended by the Panel as a Community Member of the Standards Committee. .**

Appointments to the Standards Committee

The Full Council decided as follows on 01/03/12:

- (i) To confirm the **criteria** for selecting members to the Standards Committee;
- (ii) To delegate power to the Monitoring Officer to establish a Consultative Panel to consider the applications to be an **independent member** of the Standards Committee whenever a vacancy arises;
- (iii) To delegate the power to the Monitoring Officer to write to all eligible members of the Council whenever a vacancy for an **elected member** arises on the Standards Committee and to present the applications to the Business Group;
- (iv) To delegate power to the Monitoring Officer to establish a panel from amongst the members of the Standards Committee to consider applications to be a **Community Committee Member** whenever a vacancy arises.

Criteria for appointing members to the Standards Committee

Applicants will be required to demonstrate independence and impartiality in assisting the Standards Committee in promoting, maintaining and improving ethical arrangements within Gwynedd Council and the county's community/town councils. The work of the Committee will require the members to possess the following qualities and skills:-

- Listening skills;
- Ability to understand and weigh up evidence;
- Ability to come to an objective view and explain that view by reference to the evidence;
- Team working skills;
- Respect for others and an understanding of diversity issues;
- Discretion;
- Personal integrity.

Additional Criteria for Independent members

A detailed knowledge of local government is not necessary although it would be an advantage if potential candidates were interested in matters relating to public life and services. In addition, independent members must: -

- Be eligible for selection as an independent;
- Be well respected in the community;
- Be able to meet the time commitment involved and be available at short notice;
- Be able to provide two references.

The ability to speak Welsh will be considered to be an advantage and the need to achieve a balance of skills, qualities and expertise on the Committee as well as the need to represent the community as a whole and achieve a geographical spread will all be taken into account.