

Meeting	Full Council
Date	3 March 2022
Subject	Recommendation of the Interview Panel – Appointment of Lay Members of the Governance and Audit Committee
Chair of the Panel	Councillor John Pughe Roberts
Author	Head of Finance

1. The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 has modified the Local Government Measure 2011 in relation to the governance and audit committees of Welsh local authorities.
2. Where previously, there had to be one lay member on the Committee, by May 2022 at least a third of the Committee's members must be lay members (and the Chair must be one of those lay members).
3. At its meeting on 2 December 2021, full Council decided that the Governance and Audit Committee will have 18 members, with 12 members being members of Gwynedd Council and 6 lay members from May 2022.
4. The relevant report can be found here:
[Item 11 - Local Government and Elections Wales Act 2021 - Audit and Governance Committee.pdf \(llyw.cymru\)](#)
5. It was noted in the December report that the process for appointing lay members had already begun. This was a response to an opportunity to participate in a wide-ranging advertising campaign by the WLGA.
6. Following the advertising campaign, 10 applications were submitted. Two of these applications contained no information to enable the Panel to assess the applications, so they were not invited to interview. Two of the other candidates withdrew their application before the day of the interview.
7. The criteria for appointing lay members of the Governance and Audit Committee, as approved by the Council in 2017, are in the Appendix.
8. On 17 February, six candidates were interviewed by a panel including the Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee (Councillor John Pughe Roberts), and the Cabinet Member for Finance (Councillor Ioan Thomas), advised by the Statutory Finance Officer (Dewi Morgan) and the Monitoring Officer (Iwan Evans).

9. Following careful and thorough consideration of the applications, the Panel determined that four of the applicants met the criteria, and it should be recommended to full Council that they be appointed as lay members of the Committee.
- Mr Hywel Eifion Jones
 - Mrs Sharon Warnes
 - Mr Rhys Parry
 - Mrs Clare Hitchcock
10. This means that two lay member seats remain vacant. Re-advertising is planned during March to appoint to these vacancies; a further report will be presented to a subsequent Council meeting.

Recommendation

To appoint Mr Hywel Eifion Jones, Mrs Sharon Warnes, Mr Elwyn Rhys Parry and Mrs Clare Hitchcock as Lay Members of the Governance and Audit Committee for a period of 5 years.

Views of the local member

Not a local issue

Views of statutory officers

Monitoring Officer:

I can confirm that the report properly reflects the views of the Panel.

Head of Finance:

Author of the report