

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Full Council</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>1 December 2022</b>
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Recommendation of the Interview Panel – Appointment of Lay Member of the Governance and Audit Committee</b>
<b>Chair of the Panel</b>	<b>Councillor Ioan Thomas</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Head of Finance</b>

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. The Council's Constitution states that lay members of the Governance and Audit Committee must be appointed by the full Council on the recommendation of and appointment panel.
6. At its meeting on 3 March 2022, the full Council appointed the following as Lay Members of the Governance and Audit Committee for a period of 5 years:
  - Mr Hywel Eifion Jones
  - Mrs Sharon Warnes
  - Mr Rhys Parry
  - Mrs Clare Hitchcock
7. This means that two lay member seats remained vacant. After initial advertising over the summer failed to attract interested parties, there was a third round of advertising which closed on 16 November.
8. On 24 November, a candidate was interviewed by a panel comprising the Chair of the Council (Councillor Elwyn Jones), the Chair of the Democracy Services Committee (Councillor Dewi Owen), and the Cabinet Member for Finance (Councillor Ioan Thomas). The panel was advised by the Statutory Finance Officer (Dewi Morgan) and the Monitoring Officer (Iwan Evans).

9. Following careful and thorough consideration of the application, the Panel determined that the applicant met the criteria, and it should be recommended to the full Council that **Carys Edwards** is appointed as a lay member of the Committee.
10. Carys Edwards is the current Chair of the Board of Grŵp Cynefin and is former chair of the Association's Governance Committee. Carys also sits on various panels at Grŵp Cynefin and contributes to the strategic work of the Association including guiding Board members in discussions, policy scrutiny and key plans. Prior to this, Carys held senior positions at Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn and Welsh Government. Between 1991 and 1999 Carys was an officer at Cyngor Gwynedd's Social Services Department.
11. This means that one lay member seat remains vacant and we will move forward to try to fill this vacancy without delay.

### **Recommendation**

**To appoint Mrs Carys Edwards as a Lay Member of the Governance and Audit Committee for a period of 5 years.**

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### **Views of the local member**

Not a local issue

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### **Views of statutory officers**

#### **Monitoring Officer:**

I can confirm that the Panel has carried out its functions appropriately and in accordance with the arrangements which were established by the Council for appointing lay members of the Governance and Audit Committee.

#### **Head of Finance:**

Author of the report