

Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council

Report to:	Council
Date of meeting:	20th October 2022
Title:	Recruitment of Independent Member to the Ethics and Standards Committee
Purpose of the report:	To ensure appropriate appointments are made to the Ethics and Standards Committee
For:	Decision
Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:	Councillor Matthew Vaux Cabinet Member for Housing, Legal and Governance, People and Organisation and Public Protection

BACKGROUND:

The Ethics and Standards Committee comprises of nine members:

- 5 X independent members and,
- 4 councillors (2 x County councillors, and 2 x Town/Community councillors).

The current Chair, Mrs Caroline White was appointed initially on 30/7/2013 and reappointed on 30/7/2019. The term of office will expire on 29/7/2023. Mrs Caroline White is not now eligible for reappointment.

Consequently it is now necessary to recruit a new independent member to the Ethics and Standards Committee to maintain the Committee's composition, as set out in the Constitution, and as required by legislation.

The procedure and criteria for appointment of independent members are set out in the Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001 (SI 2001/2283). This includes:

- Where a vacancy arises for a post as an independent member of a standards committee the relevant authority concerned shall publish an advertisement in not less than two newspapers (which are not published by that relevant authority) circulating in its area.
- Publish the criteria for appointment.
- A Selection Panel must be established of not more than five panel members, including a lay panel member, and a community council member. This panel will consider every application, apply the criteria, and make recommendations to Council. Appointments shall be made having regard to the recommendations of the panel.

PROPOSAL

1. That the role description, person specification and criteria for the appointment of independent members shall be as set out in **Appendix 1**.

2. That membership of the Selection Panel shall be as follows (x5):

- Chair of the Council (in absence Vice Chair);
- Chair and Vice Chair of the Ethics and Standards Committee (or other independent members nominated by the Monitoring Officer as necessary);
- Town and Community Council representative nominated by One Voice Wales;
- Independent/Lay Panel member (Chair of the selection panel) (nominated by the Monitoring Officer);

The Independent/Lay Panel member must not be or have been a member, co-opted member or officer of the County Council, any other council or National Park Authority, or Town/Community Council. It is proposed that the same lay member who chaired the previous Selection Panel in 2011, 2013, 2017 and 2021 be nominated (subject to availability).

CURRENT SITUATION:

Consideration was given to the Report upon the Succession planning-lay member at the Ethics and Standards Committee on 25th May 2022. Following discussion, it was AGREED to recommend to Council to approve:

(i) the role description, person specification and criteria (as set out in Appendix)

(ii) Membership of the Selection Panel as follows:

- Chair of the Council(in absence Vice Chair);
- Independent/Lay Panel member (nominated by the Monitoring Officer)
- Chair and Vice Chair of the Ethics and Standards Committee (or other independent members nominated by the Monitoring Officer as necessary)
- Town and Community Council representative nominated by One Voice Wales; and

(iii) change the title of job description to role description in the Appendix

	Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If, not, please state why	Not applicable – this is not a change of policy or service.
Wellbeing of Future Generations:	Summary: Long term: N/A Collaboration: N/A Involvement: N/A Prevention: N/A Integration: N/A	

Recommendation(s): **That Council resolves to approve:**

1) the role description, person specification and criteria (as set out in **Appendix 1**)

2) Membership of the Selection Panel as follows:

- Chair of the Council(in absence Vice Chair);
- Independent/Lay Panel member (nominated by the Monitoring Officer)
- Chair and Vice Chair of the Ethics and Standards Committee (or other independent members

nominated by the Monitoring Officer as necessary)

- Town and Community Council representative nominated by One Voice Wales.

Reasons for decision: **The recommendations are necessary to ensure that the appropriate appointments are in place, in accordance with the Constitution.**

Overview and Scrutiny: N/A

Policy Framework: Council's Constitution

Corporate Priorities: Supports the Council in delivering its Corporate Priorities:

- [Boosting the Economy](#)
- [Investing in People's Futures](#)
- [Enabling Individual and Family Resilience](#)

Finance and Procurement implications: None

Legal Implications: Without this decision the Committee will not comply with legislative requirements

Staffing implications: None

Property / asset implications: None

Risk(s): None

Statutory Powers: Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001 (SI 2001/2283)

Background Papers: None

Appendices: Appendix A – Role description, person specification and criteria.

Corporate Officer: **Lead** Elin Prysor
Corporate Lead Officer: Legal and Governance

Reporting Officer: Lisa Evans
Scrutiny and Standards Officer

Date: 6/7/22