

CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to:	Council
Date of meeting:	15 December 2022
Title:	Report on the Recruitment of an Independent (Lay) Member to the Governance and Audit Committee
Purpose of the report:	To approve the appointment of an Independent (Lay) Member to the Governance and Audit Committee
For:	Decision
Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:	Matthew Vaux, Cabinet Member for Partnerships, Housing, Legal and Governance and Public Protection

Background:

On the 20th October 2022 it was reported to Council that One of the independent/lay members of the Governance & Audit Committee (Liam Hull) (Vice-Chair) has indicated an intention to resign from the Committee. As a result of this, Council voted to approve the commencement of the recruitment process for 1 (replacement) independent/lay member to the Governance & Audit Committee.

As part of this recruitment process, a selection panel was formed consisting of the following:

1. Chair of the Council, or Vice Chair (Cllr Ifan Davies)
2. Chair of the Governance & Audit Committee (Alan Davies)
3. Vice Chair or other independent member of the Governance & Audit Committee (Caroline Whitby)
4. Councillor member of the Governance & Audit Committee (Cllr Elizabeth Evans)
5. An independent lay member of the community (Prof. John Williams / Chair)

Current Position:

The recruitment process for the replacement lay member has been undertaken. The Shortlisting Selection Panel met on the 14th of November 2022 to select candidates for interview. Interviews took place on the 9th of December 2022.

The successful candidate was: Mr Andrew Blackmore

It is proposed that the appointment of the successful candidate will be for no more than two consecutive administrative terms (i.e. one term initially, with the option to extend to a second term in 2027 - the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 provides at S.14 that ordinary elections of councillors of the new principal councils shall take place in 2022 and in every fifth year thereafter).

Should Council choose to appoint the candidate, the new independent/lay member would be appointed until the 4th of May 2027. Extension to a second administrative term may be considered in early 2027.

Wellbeing of Future Generations: **Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed?** No
If, not, please state why
Summary: *This report does not represent a change in policy or strategy*
Long term:
Collaboration:
Involvement:
Prevention:
Integration:

Recommendation(s): That Council resolves to approve the appointment of Mr Andrew Blackmore as independent/lay member of the Governance and Audit Committee with effect from the 15th of December 2022 (subject to satisfactory references) for the remainder of the current administrative term (up to the 4th of May 2027).

Reasons for decision: To ensure that the appropriate appointments are maintained and to ensure compliance with the relevant legislation and the Constitution.

Overview and Scrutiny: Not applicable
Policy Framework: Not applicable

Corporate Priorities: Effective Corporate Governance ensures that the Council can deliver on all the Corporate Priorities.

Finance and Procurement implications: Full compliance with requirements.

Legal Implications: Compliance with legislation/regulations

Staffing implications: Not applicable

Property / asset implications: Not applicable

Risk(s): None

Statutory Powers: Local Government Act 1972:
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1972/70/contents>
Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011:
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2011/4/contents>
Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021:

Background Papers: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asc/2021/1/contents>
Report to Council 20/10/2022:
<https://council.ceredigion.gov.uk/documents/s3870/Report%20on%20recruitment%20of%20independent%20person%20to%20the%20Governance%20and%20Audit%20Committee.pdf?LLL=0>

Appendices: None

Corporate Officer: **Lead** Elin Prysor – Corporate Lead Officer Legal & Governance (& Monitoring Officer)

Reporting Officer: Elin Prysor

Date: 9/12/2022