

Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council

REPORT TO: Governance and Audit Committee

DATE: **17 January 2023**

LOCATION: Council Chamber and Remotely via Video Conference

TITLE: **Governance and Audit Committee Lay Member & Deputy Chair Arrangements**

PURPOSE OF REPORT: To note the appointment of a new independent/lay member and to appoint a new Deputy Chair

Information and Decision

For:

Background

Lay Person Recruitment

As a result of the receipt of notice of intention to resign of lay-member and Vice Chair, Liam Hull, from the Governance and Audit Committee, a new member has since been recruited and appointed to the committee.

Council resolved on 15th December 2022 to approve the appointment of the following individual as an independent/lay person of the Governance and Audit Committee with **effect from 15th December 2022 (subject to satisfactory references)** for the remainder of the current administrative term:

- Mr Andrew Blackmore

(See Report to Council at:

<https://council.ceredigion.gov.uk/documents/s4100/Report%20on%20the%20Recruitment%20of%20an%20Independent%20Lay%20Member%20to%20the%20Governance%20and%20Audit%20Committee.pdf?LLL=0>)

Section 116 of the 2021 Act amends section 82 of the Local Government (Wales) 2011 Measure (the 2011 Measure) to include that the Governance and Audit Committee:

- Chair must be a lay person, and
- that the member appointed as the Deputy Chair must not be a member of the local authority's executive or assistant to its executive.

Deputy Chair

Committee will recall that on 10th March 2022 Committee resolved that the Deputy Chair be appointed from the Committee's three Lay Persons. This is in consideration of circumstances where the Deputy Chair would need to, in the absence of the Chair, act as Chair.

(See the 2021 Act at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asc/2021/1> and 2011 Measure at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2011/4/contents>)

Appointing the Chair and Deputy Chair

Section 116 of the 2021 Act also amends the 2011 Measure to state that the Governance and Audit Committee itself appoints the Chair and Deputy Chair.

Current Position

The departing independent member and Deputy Chair, Liam Hull, agreed to stay in post until a replacement Lay Member and Deputy Chair could be appointed. As such, this committee has been able to maintain its membership at 9 members (6 Councillors and 3 Independent/Lay Members).

The committee is now without a Deputy Chair.

In order to ensure that a Deputy Chair is in post following the resignation of Liam Hull from the Committee, it is recommended that the Committee appoints a new Deputy Chair forthwith.

Recommendation(s): That the Governance and Audit Committee agrees:

1. To note that on 15/12/22 Council appointed Andrew Blackmore as a new independent/lay member of the Governance and Audit Committee; and
2. To appoint the new Deputy Chair with immediate effect from 17 January 2023 for the remainder of a two-year period from May 2022 (up to May 2024).

Reasons for recommendation(s):

- To ensure compliance with legislation; and
- To ensure appropriate composition of the Committee.

Appendices: None

Head of Service: Elin Prysor-Corporate Lead Officer: Legal & Governance Services (& Monitoring Officer)

Reporting Officer: Elin Prysor/Harry Dimmack

Date: 20 December 2022