

## **Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council**

**Report to:** Council

**Date of meeting:** 13 July 2023

**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 Partnerships, Housing, Legal and Governance 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).

John Weston and Carol Edwards were appointed initially on 22/2/2018 and are eligible for reappointment on 22/2/2024 for a further four years.

Carol Edwards has confirmed that she will be reappointed for a further four years. John Weston has confirmed that he will not be seeking reappointment once the initial six years comes to an end on 21/2/2024.

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 job 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, 2021 and 2022 be nominated (subject to availability).

### **CURRENT SITUATION:**

The Ethics and Standards Committee at its meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023 AGREED to recommend to Council:

1) Carol Edwards term of office is extended 22/2/2024 to 21/2/2028.

2) the role description, person specification and criteria

3) 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.
- Independent/Lay Panel member (Chair of the selection panel) (nominated by the Monitoring Officer)

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

**RECOMMENDATION (S):** that Council resolves to approve:

1) Carol Edwards term of office is extended 22/2/2024 to 21/2/2028.

- 2) the role description, person specification and criteria (as set out in **Appendix 1**)
- 3) 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.
  - Independent/Lay Panel member (Chair of the selection panel) (nominated by the Monitoring Officer)

**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:** 20/6/23