

Meeting of:	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Date of Meeting:	9 APRIL 2024
Report Title:	APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	MONITORING OFFICER
Responsible Officer:	LAURA GRIFFITHS GROUP MANAGER LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	There is no effect upon the policy framework and procedure rules; however the Standards Committee contributes to the maintenance of probity in the Council.
Executive Summary:	To appoint a Chair for the Standards Committee. Any appointment will be reported to full Council for noting.

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To appoint a Chairperson for the Standards Committee.

2. Background

2.1 Under the Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001 the members of a Standards Committee shall elect a Chairperson from amongst the Independent Members of the Committee.

2.2 A Chairperson shall be elected for whichever is the shorter of the following periods: (a) a period of not less than four nor more than six years, (b) until the term of office of that person as an independent member of that standards committee comes to an end.

2.3 The Council's Standards Committee consists of five Independent Members, two County Borough Council Members and one Town and Community Council Member.

2.4 There is currently a vacancy of the post of Chairperson due to the recent resignation of Mr Shawn Cullen.

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 The Role Description for the Chair of the Standards Committee as set out within the Council's Constitution is as follows:

Accountabilities

To Full Council.

Role Purpose and Activity

- (a) *Providing Leadership and Direction*
 - (i) *To act within technical, legal and procedural requirements to oversee the functions of the committee fairly and correctly.*
 - (ii) *To ensure thoroughness and objectivity in the committee, receiving and responding to professional advice on the Code of Conduct.*
 - (iii) *To demonstrate independence, integrity and impartiality in decision making which accord with legal, constitutional and policy requirements.*
 - (iv) *To provide confident and effective management of meetings to facilitate inclusivity, participation and clear decision making.*
 - (v) *To lead the committee in its role in:*
 - (A) *promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Councillors and co-opted members;*
 - (B) *assisting the Councillors and co-opted members to observe the Members' Code of Conduct;*
 - (C) *advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct;*
 - (D) *monitoring the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct;*
 - (E) *advising, training or arranging to train Councillors, co-opted members on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct;*
 - (F) *granting dispensations to Councillors and co-opted members on dealing with any reports from a case tribunal or interim case tribunal, and any report from the Monitoring Officer on any matter referred to that officer by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales;*
 - (G) *the exercise of these functions in relation to community councils and the members of those community councils.*

Values

To be committed to the values of the council and the following values in public office:

- (b) *openness and transparency;*

- (c) *honesty and integrity;*
- (d) *tolerance and respect;*
- (e) *equality and fairness;*
- (f) *appreciation of cultural differences;*
- (g) *sustainability.*

3.2 If the Chair is absent from a meeting then the Vice-Chair shall preside, if present. If both the Chair and Vice-Chair are absent, the Committee shall choose another Independent Member to preside.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

4.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act 2010, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales, the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

5.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report. This report also assists in the achievement of the following well-being objective under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:-

A county borough where people feel valued, heard and part of their community.

5.2 The Standards Committee is responsible for promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members. Standards are an implicit requirement in the successful implementation of the corporate well-being objectives.

6. Climate Change Implications

6.1 There are no climate change implications.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 There are no safeguarding and corporate parent implications.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 In accordance with the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report for 2024-25, the remuneration for Chairs of Standards Committees is £268 (4 hours and over), £134 (up to 4 hours) and for ordinary members of the Committee - £210 (4 hours and over) and £105 (up to 4 hours).

- 8.2 The changes to the remuneration of Elected Members for the financial year 2024/25 increased the financial commitment required from this Authority. Some of the cost may be negated by members electing to forgo some or all of their salaries or choosing not to opt into the Local Government Pension Scheme. The additional costs are being met from the centrally held provision for pay and price increases during the 2024/25 financial year.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 It is recommended that the Committee appoint a Chairperson from amongst the Independent Members to take office from the date of this Committee meeting for a term to be determined.

Background documents:

None