

Meeting of:	COUNCIL
Date of Meeting:	22 NOVEMBER 2023
Report Title:	APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE
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.
Executive Summary:	To note the appointment of a Chair and Vice Chair for the Standards Committee.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To note the appointment of a Chairperson and Vice 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 Clifford Jones OBE.

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 Standards Committee shall choose another Independent Member to preside.

3.3 A scheduled meeting of the Standards Committee took place on 16 November 2023 and the Committee elected Mr Shawn Cullen as the Chair and Ms Sue Maughan as the Vice-Chair and noted that the appointments would be reported to full Council for information.

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 Any appointments referred to in this report will be met from existing Democratic Services budgets.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 It is recommended that Council note the appointment of Mr Shawn Cullen as the Chair of the Standards Committee and Ms Sue Maughan as the Vice-Chair with immediate effect until a term to be determined.

Background documents:

None