

# **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **COUNCIL**

**8<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

### **Report of the Director of Finance and Head of Legal and Democratic Services**

#### **Matter for Decision**

**Wards Affected:** All Wards

#### **GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE – APPOINTMENT OF VOTING LAY MEMBER**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To obtain approval for the appointment of a voting lay Member of the Governance and Audit Committee following a selection panel that met on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

#### **Background**

2. An advisory panel to interview candidates for appointment as voting lay members to the Governance and Audit Committee met on the 20th December 2024, which comprised:
  - County Borough Council Members –Cllr Chris Williams, Cllr Tim Bowen
  - Chair of Governance and Audit Committee – Mrs J Jenkins
  - Independent External Member – Mr R Alcott
4. Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (“the Council”) requires the appointment of one more voting lay member to the Governance and Audit Committee and one application was received following an

advertisement earlier this year and that applicant was selected for interview.

5. The panel concluded that the following candidates should be recommended for appointment to the Governance and Audit Committee

(a) Michael Spanner

The candidate demonstrated an understanding of good governance arrangements and the significance of the role they would be appointed to.

### **Integrated Impact Assessment**

6. There are no impacts associated with this report.

### **Workforce Impacts**

7. There are no impacts associated with this report.

### **Legal Powers**

8. The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 stipulated changes to the members of the Governance and Audit Committee of the Council requiring at least one third of the members of the committee are lay members. The recruitment of an additional lay member will ensure compliance with this obligation.

### **Risk Management**

9. The Council will be unable to have a sufficient number of lay members to ensure the smooth operation of the Governance and Audit Committee in the event these appointments are not made and will be in breach of its legal requirements pursuant to the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

### **Consultation**

10. There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

### **Recommendations**

11. That the individual referred to at paragraph 5 of this report be appointed as voting lay member of the Governance and Audit Committee.

## **Reasons for Proposed Decision**

12. To ensure that the Governance and Audit Committee of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council is constituted appropriately in line with the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021

## **List of Background Papers**

13. None

## **Officer Contact**

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