

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council

19 July 2017

Report of the Head of Legal Services D Michael

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All

NEATH PORT TALBOT STANDARDS COMMITTEE - APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

Purpose of the Report

1. To obtain decisions from Council regarding the appointment of Independent Members to the Neath Port Talbot Standards Committee.

Background

2. The composition of Standards Committees in Wales is governed by the Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2011 (as amended). The regulations require that where the total number of members of a Standards Committee is an odd number a majority of that number shall be Independent Members. Independent Members are defined as “persons who are neither Councillors of the Authority or Community Council Members”. The Neath Port Talbot Standards Committee has seven members in total, four of whom are Independent Members. The term of office of two Independent Members the Chair Mr Godfrey Pullen and Vice Chair Mrs Julie Howells will terminate at the end of May 2018. The term of office of the other two members will come to an end in May 2021.

3. Local Authorities are required to establish a panel to consider applications in relation to a vacancy, to apply criteria established by the Local Authority when considering applications and to make recommendations to Council in respect of any applications received. The panel shall consist of not more than five panel members one of whom is what is described as “a lay panel member”. This must be a person who is not a member of the Local Authority and also is not an Independent Member of the Standards Committee.
4. Members of Council will see below a recommendation in paragraph 12 that the panel now be constituted and that it consists of:-
 - 1 Lay Panel Member
 - 2 Members of the Council
 - 2 Independent Members of the Standards Committee.
5. There is a statutory requirement that the vacancies are advertised. The recommendation of the panel based on the applications and any interviews will be brought back to full Council.

Financial Impact

6. Any expenditure will be contained within existing budgets.

Equality Impact Assessment

7. There is no requirement for an Equality Impact Assessment on this item.

Workforce Impacts

8. There are no workforce impacts associated with this Report.

Legal Impacts

9. The legal requirements for this procedure are set out in the report.

Consultation

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

Recommendations

11. That two replacement Independent Members be recruited to serve on the Neath Port Talbot Standards Committee.
12. That the Advisory Panel be reconstituted to consist of one Lay Member, two Members of Council and the two retiring Independent Members of Standards Committee.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

- 13 To comply with statutory requirements.

Appendices

14. None

List of Background Papers

15. None

Officer Contact

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