

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

1 AUGUST 2017

Report of the Head of Legal Services D Michael

Matter for Information

Wards Affected: All

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform Members of Appointment of Independent Members to Neath Port Talbot Council 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.
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. 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.
5. A report was taken to the Council meeting of 19th July 2017 with a recommendation that the panel now be constituted and that it consists of:-
 - One lay panel member
 - Two members of Council and
 - Two independent members of the Standards Committee.
6. The two members of Council nominated by Members were the deputy Mayor Councillor Dennis Keogh who is of course a member of the Standards Committee and Councillor Del Morgan who, aside from being a County Borough Member also has experience of Town and Community Councils. I suggested to Council that the two independent members be members who are due to retire in May 2018.
7. In terms of the lay member, I have now had confirmation that Ms Gaynor Richards of Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service is prepared to serve. She participated when the panel was last convened.
8. I shall confirm the membership of the panel with Council in September and I would then be looking to complete any recruitment exercise well before the end of the financial year.

Appendices

9. None

List of Background Papers

10. The Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2011 (as amended).

Officer Contact

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