

# **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **COUNCIL**

**2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY 2022**

### **Report of the Chief Finance Officer – Mr H Jones**

#### **Matter for Decision**

**Wards Affected:** All Wards

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

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

1. To obtain approval for the appointment of voting lay Members of the Governance and Audit Committee following a selection panel that met on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

#### **Background**

2. An advisory panel to interview candidates for appointment as voting lay members to the Governance and Audit Committee met on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022, which comprised:
  - County Borough Council Members – The Mayor and Councillor D Morgan
  - Co-opted Lay Member – Mrs J Jenkins
  - Independent External Member – Mr R Alcott
4. Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (“the Council”) requires the appointment of three voting lay members to the Governance and Audit Committee and three (3) applicants were selected for interview.
5. The panel concluded that the following candidates should be recommended for appointment to the Governance and Audit Committee

(a) Andrew Bagley

(b) Helen Griffiths

(c) Mark Owen

All candidates 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 lay members 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 individuals referred to at paragraph 5 of this report be appointed as voting lay members 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

## **Implementation of Decision:**

13. The decision is for Immediate Implementation.

## **List of Background Papers**

14. None

## **Officer Contact**

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