



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council

13th July 2022

Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services – Mr Craig Griffiths

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

NPTCBC Standards Committee – Appointment of Independent Members

Purpose of the Report

To seek authority from Council to advertise vacancies for independent members to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Standards Committee

Background

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 tenure of the current Chair and Vice Chair of the Standards Committee will expire at the end of December 2022 and are not capable of further

extension. The remaining independent members will see their tenure expire in 2028. Accordingly, it will be necessary to recruit two new members.

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.

It would be proposed that a panel be comprised of 1 lay panel member (Mrs Gaynor Richards of Neath Port Talbot CVS), a member of the Independent Group who is also a town and community councillor, the Mayor and 2 Independent Members of the Standards Committee.

There is a statutory requirement that the vacancies are advertised. The documentation that will be issued to applicants is enclosed at Appendix 1 of this report. Welsh language versions will also be included with the application pack.

The recommendation of the panel based on the applications and any interviews will be brought back to Full Council.

Financial Impacts

Any expenditure will be contained within existing budgets

Integrated Impact Assessment

There is no requirement for an integrated impact assessment as this report relates to governance matters only.

Valleys Communities Impacts

No implications.

Workforce Impacts

No implications.

Legal Impacts

The legal requirements for this procedure are set out within this report.

Risk Management Impacts

No implications.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- (a) Two replacement independent members be recruited to serve on the Neath Port Talbot Standards Committee
- (b) That an advisory panel of one lay panel member (Mrs Gaynor Richards), a member of the independent group who is also a town and community councillor (to be nominated by the Leader of Council), the Mayor and two Independent Members of the Standards Committee be convened to conduct any interview, with recommendations being brought back to Full Council.
- (c) Members endorse the suite of documents that will be issued to any applicants who wish to apply for these two vacancies.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

To ensure the Neath Port Talbot Standards Committee is constituted in accordance with legislative requirements

Implementation of Decision

This decision is proposed for immediate implementation

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Application Documents

List of Background Papers

None

Officer Contact

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