

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE:	AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
	26 MAY 2016
TITLE OF REPORT:	REVIEW OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER APPOINTMENTS
PURPOSE OF REPORT:	TO DECIDE THE PROCESS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE
REPORT BY:	MARC JONES – HEAD OF FUNCTION (RESOURCES) / SECTION 151 OFFICER
ACTION:	FOR DECISION

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The report requests the Committee to decide whether they wish to re-appoint the two existing independent Committee members for a further two years or whether the Authority should seek to appoint two new members.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Local Government Measure (Wales) 2011 included a requirement for the first time for local authority Audit Committees to include at least one Independent Member from May 2012. The Statutory Guidance issued by the Welsh Government in June 2012 states that “It is recommended that a lay member should not be appointed for more than two full terms of a local authority”.
- 2.2 The two current Independent Members were appointed on 1 July 2012 for an initial period of two years.
- 2.3 At its meeting on 11th December 2013, the Committee considered the current arrangements and resolved the following:-
- “Resolved :- to extend the current arrangements with the existing Independent Members from July 2014 for a further two years.”***
- 2.4 Given that the two years extension comes to an end in July 2016, it is now necessary to make a further decision on the appointment of the Independent Members.

3. OPTIONS AVAILABLE

- 3.1 The two existing Independent Members have sat on the Committee for a period of four years and, during that time they have gained extensive knowledge about the Council and the role of the Audit Committee in the overall governance process of the Council. If their appointment came to an end then this knowledge and experience would be lost.
- 3.2 However, the role of the Independent Member is to bring to the Committee alternative experiences, from outside local government, and regularly appointing new members ensures that the Committee is provided with a new perspective on matters considered which may be of benefit to the Committee.

- 3.3** The Council's Constitution states that the Independent Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Councillor members of the Audit and Governance Committee for a fixed term to be determined by them when the appointment is made. The Constitution does not provide a limit on the length of the fixed term. These requirements are also included in the Committee's Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference were last reviewed by the Committee on 9 February 2015.
- 3.4** The Council itself has a defined period, i.e. between each election, and there is also merit in defining the length of appointment of the Independent Member in line with the Council's elections and that each Independent Member serves one term of five years. If the Committee decides to adopt this as a policy regarding the length of membership of an Independent Member of the Audit Committee, the change would need to be incorporated into the Council's Constitution and approved by the Full Council.

4. RECOMMENDATION

4.1. The Committee is asked to consider the following:-

- 1.** To set a fixed period of appointment for the Committee's Independent Members which coincides with the time between the Council's elections, i.e. 5 years, and to determine whether members can serve more than one term, either consecutively or at any time.
- 2.** If point 1 above is approved, to consider extending the appointment of the 2 existing members to May 2017.
- 3.** If point 1 above is not approved, to determine whether to extend the appointment of the current members for a further period (to be determined by the Committee) or to advertise for two new independent members who will commence their appointment in July 2016 for a period to be determined by the Committee.