

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Report to:	Executive and Council
Date:	9th February 2015 and 26th February 2015
Subject:	Extending Term of Standards Committee
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Alwyn Rowlands
Head of Service:	Lynn Ball
Report Author: Tel: E-mail:	Awena Walkden 01248 752134 awxce@anglesey.gov.uk
Local Members:	N/A

A –Recommendation/s and reason/s
<p>The Executive recommends to Council that :-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council approve the reappointment of the independent Members of the Standards Committee for a further term of 4 years, from 17th December 2015. 2. Council provides authority to the Monitoring Officer to make all consequential amendments to the Council’s Constitution, and the Standards Committee’s Constitution, to extend all future appointments to an automatic two terms for all independent Members of the Standards Committee. <p>BACKGROUND</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Part 3 of the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended by the Local Government Act 2006) requires that the Council have a Standards Committee consisting of no fewer than 5, and no more than 9, Members. 4. At least one Member (in this Council we have two) must be a Town or Community Councillor, collectively nominated by the Town and Community Councils. The Committee also includes two County Council Members. 5. The current independent Members of the Standards Committee will cease to hold office on the 17th December 2015 in accordance with their current single term. 6. All independent Members of the Standards Committee hold office for 4 years but are eligible to apply again for one further term.

7. An earlier decision of the Council prevents these Members from being automatically appointed for another term without going through a competitive external appointments process.
8. However, the statutory regulations provide that there is no need to pursue a recruitment process in order to be appointed for a second term.
9. The Monitoring Officer has informally consulted with the current independent Members of the Standards Committee on their willingness to be reappointment for a further term of 4 years; and all such Members have confirmed that they would be happy to accept such reappointment.
10. The Monitoring Officer is of the view that appointing the existing independent Members of the Standards Committee would be a better course of action than recruitment because:-
 - 1) Legislation specifically permits it, but provides a maximum of two terms to ensure that the Committee is refreshed and renewed on a regular basis.
 - 2) There is no longer justification for continuing with the current local choice arrangements. That is, it can no longer be suggested that the Standards Committee has become jaded as a result of having to deal with numerous complaints and cross complaints. Nowadays, complaints are rare and most of the work of the Standards Committee is self-motivated rather than responsive.
 - 3) Significant time and resources have been invested by the Council in following the statutory process required for the recruitment and selection of the current independent Members of the Standards Committee. Similarly much work, by Officers and the Members themselves, has been undertaken in training and developing in their role. It would be a wasted investment for all concerned not to take the opportunity of maximising the investment by gaining a further four year term.
 - 4) The independent Members of the Standards Committee have acquired experience and confidence in their role and have done so diligently and professionally, including their valuable contribution to the North Wales Standards Committee Forum. Extending their term of office would be an opportunity to build on this.
 - 5) Any independent Member of the Standards Committee who did not wish to undertake a second term, or who is unable to complete the term, would be replaced through the statutory process and the Standards Committee Appointments Panel is already in place.
 - 6) Regulation is due to come into force (as yet date unknown) which would allow (but not compel) Councils to establish regional Standards Committees. Should this Council chose to go down that route then a recruitment, selection and development

process during 2015/16 may not prove to be the best use of resources.

B – What other options did you consider and why did you reject them and/or opt for this option?

Should Council refuse the recommendation then the only alternative option would be automatically triggered in any event.

C – Why is this a decision for the Executive?

The automatic appointment of the Standards Committee for a second term will require Constitutional change which can only be approved by the full Council after prior consideration from the Executive.

CH – Is this decision consistent with policy approved by the full Council?

N/A - This is a Council decision

D – Is this decision within the budget approved by the Council?

There are no budgetary considerations.

DD – Who did you consult?		What did they say?
1	Chief Executive / Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) (mandatory)	
2	Finance / Section 151 (mandatory)	
3	Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory)	Report commissioned by the Monitoring Officer
4	Human Resources (HR)	
5	Property	
6	Information Communication Technology (ICT)	
7	Scrutiny	
8	Local Members	
9	Any external bodies / other/s	

	Independent Members of the Standards Committee Group Leaders	Please refer to paragraph 9 Who supported the concept but acknowledging that it is a matter for all Members of the Council
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E – Risks and any mitigation (if relevant)	
1	Economic
2	Anti-poverty
3	Crime and Disorder
4	Environmental
5	Equalities
6	Outcome Agreements
7	Other

F - Appendices:
None

FF - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):
None