

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Adroddiad i: Report to:	Governance and Audit Committee
Dyddiad: Date:	08 February 2022
Pwnc: Subject:	Update on the recruitment of lay members to the Governance and Audit Committee
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Natur a Rheswm dros Adrodd / Nature and Reason for Reporting: In accordance with the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, the Governance and Audit Committee requires a third of its members to be lay members. This report updates the Committee on the progress made with recruiting the additional lay members required.	

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report updates the Committee, as at 25 January 2022, on the progress of recruiting the additional lay members to the Governance and Audit Committee, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.
- 1.2 The Director of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer provided the Council with a briefing on the Act on 9 March 2021, which can be accessed at <http://democracy.anglesey.gov.uk/documents/s16895/Local%20Government%20and%20Elections%20Wales%20Act%202021.pdf?LLL=0>
- 1.3 The Act introduces reforms of the performance and governance regime, including changes to the committee membership composition and proceedings (sections 116-118). The Act requires that:
 - one-third of the Committee members are lay persons and two-thirds are members of the Council
 - a member of the Committee is to be appointed by the Committee as its Chair (and must be a lay person); and

- a member of the Committee is to be appointed by the Committee as its Deputy Chair (and must not be a member of the local authority's executive or an assistant to its executive).

1.4 A 'lay person' is defined by section 117 of the Act as a person who is:

- not a member or an officer of any local authority
- has not at any time in the period of 12 months ending with the date of that person's appointment been a member or an officer of any local authority; and
- not the spouse or civil partner of a member or an officer of any local authority.

1.5 For the Isle of Anglesey County Council, this means there will be a requirement for four lay members. Mr Dilwyn Evans, current lay member, has indicated he is willing to serve a second term and therefore, three additional lay members are required.

2. PROGRESS

- 2.1 The Council participated in the Welsh Local Government Association's (WLGA) Task and Finish Group to develop an application form and advert for the recruitment of the lay members, as well as a national programme of promotion. We worked with our IT Team to develop an on-line application form specifically for the Isle of Anglesey County Council.
- 2.2 The vacancies were widely advertised, including media outlets that younger people were likely to access, such as Facebook and LinkedIn, in accordance with the Council's duty to attract under-represented groups.
- 2.3 The advert went live on 10 October 2021 on the WLGA's website, which directed potential applicants to the Council's dedicated web page. The WLGA also placed the advert with Guardian Jobs and circulated it among professional networks (i.e. pan-Wales Equality Officer Network, non-executive director network, WBFG Commissioner Leadership alumni and former participants to the WEN Wales/EYST mentorship programme, as well as promoting on Wales Online.
- 2.4 The Council received 13 application forms. Compared to the rest of Wales, this was a very good response. A shortlisting panel consisting of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Governance and Audit Committee, and the Director of Function (Resources) and Section 151 Officer, conducted a shortlisting exercise on 19 January 2022. The panel identified four candidates for interview. Due to being incomplete, the shortlisting panel dismissed six applications and three had no local connection, leaving four to be potentially interviewed.
- 2.5 An interview panel will interview candidates in February 2022. The interview panel will consist of the Chair of the Governance and Audit Committee, the

Director of Function (Resources) and Section 151 Officer and the Deputy Chief Executive.

- 2.6 In accordance with the Constitution, paragraph 3.4.8.2.2, the Chair and Vice-Chair recommend the appointment of the lay members to the Governance and Audit Committee, which is timetabled for the meeting on 19 April 2022.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the Governance and Audit Committee notes the progress made with recruiting the additional three lay members required for the Governance and Audit Committee from May 2022.