

Isle of Anglesey County Council	
Report to:	County Council
Date:	25 April 2022
Subject:	Appointment of Lay Members to the Governance and Audit Committee
Portfolio Holder(s):	Not applicable
Head of Service / Director:	Marc Jones Director of Function (Resources) and Section 151 Officer MarcJones@ynysmon.gov.uk
Report Author:	Marion Pryor Head of Audit and Risk MarionPryor@ynysmon.gov.uk
Local Members:	Not applicable

A – Recommendation/s and reason/s

Purpose of the report

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 asks Isle of Anglesey County Council to approve the selection and appointment of three additional lay members to the Governance and Audit Committee and to support the continuation of the current lay member for one further five-year term.

In accordance with the Constitution, Council is asked to approve the appointment of the new lay members for the new term and the re-appointment of the existing lay member.

Recommendation

- 1. To approve the selection and appointment of the three candidates as lay members to the Governance and Audit Committee**
- 2. To agree the continuance of the current lay member for a second five-year term**

Background

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 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 – Recommendation/s and reason/s

- 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).

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.

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 five-year term, which is provided for in the Governance and Audit Committee's Terms of Reference (and Constitution). Three additional lay members are required to comply with the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

The Council participated with the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) to develop an application form and advert for the recruitment of lay members, as well as a national programme of promotion. We worked with our in-house IT Team to develop an on-line application form specifically for the Isle of Anglesey County Council.

The Council received 13 application forms. Compared to the rest of Wales, this was a very good response. A 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.

A panel consisting of the Chair of the Governance and Audit Committee, the Director of Function (Resources) and Section 151 Officer and the now Chief Executive interviewed the four candidates in February 2022. The interview panel selected the following three candidates to be considered for appointment:

- Michael Wilson, of Llangefni, Anglesey
- Sharon Warnes, of Pwllheli, Gwynedd
- William Parry, of Rhosneigr, Anglesey

All candidates have accepted their invitation to be considered for appointment and two satisfactory references have been received for each.

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

Do nothing. However, this would mean that the Council would not comply with the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

C – Why is this a decision for the Executive?

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

The provisions of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 are reflected in the Council's Constitution, and the Governance and Audit Committee's Terms of Reference.

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

Yes

Dd – Assessing the potential impact (if relevant):

1	How does this decision impact on our long term needs as an Island?	Ensures that the Council is acting lawfully.
2	Is this a decision which it is envisaged will prevent future costs / dependencies on the Authority? If so, how?	n/a
3	Have we been working collaboratively with other organisations to come to this decision? If so, please advise whom.	Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA)
4	Have Anglesey citizens played a part in drafting this way forward, including those directly affected by the decision? Please explain how.	No
5	Note any potential impact that this decision would have on the groups protected under the Equality Act 2010.	The Council participated in a national recruitment campaign led by the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) to ensure that hard to reach and under-represented groups had equal opportunity to apply for the position. The WLGA posted the advert on its website, which directed potential applicants to the Council's dedicated web page. The WLGA widely advertised the vacancies, including in Guardian Jobs, and circulated among professional networks, i.e. pan-Wales Equality Officer Network, non-executive director network, WCFG Commissioner

Dd – Assessing the potential impact (if relevant):		
		Leadership alumni and former participants to the WEN Wales/EYST mentorship programme, as well as promoting on Wales Online. Locally, the Council advertised across other 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.
6	If this is a strategic decision, note any potential impact that the decision would have on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.	No impact
7	Note any potential impact that this decision would have on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.	No impact

E – Who did you consult?		What did they say?
1	Chief Executive / Senior Leadership Team (SLT) (mandatory)	The Chief Executive was a member of the interview panel.
2	Finance / Section 151 (mandatory)	The Director of Function (Resources) / Section 151 Officer was a member of the shortlisting and interview panels.
3	Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory)	No comment
4	Human Resources (HR)	Not applicable
5	Property	Not applicable
6	Information Communication Technology (ICT)	Assisted with dedicated web page and the online application form
7	Procurement	Not applicable
8	Scrutiny	Not applicable
9	Local Members	Not applicable

F - Appendices:

Ff - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):
Local Government and (Elections) Wales Act 2021 Constitution