

**CYNGOR SIR YNYS MON / ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL**

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>COMMITTEE:</b>             | <b>Standards Committee</b>  |
| <b>DATE:</b>                  | <b>14<sup>th</sup> March 2018</b>   |
| <b>REPORT TITLE:</b>          | <b>New Members to the Standards Committee</b>   |
| <b>PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:</b> | <b>Update on appointment of new Members to the Standards Committee</b>  |
| <b>REPORT BY:</b>             | <b>Head of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer</b>   |
| <b>LINK OFFICER:</b>          | <b>Lynn Ball<br/>Head of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer<br/><a href="mailto:lbxcs@anglesey.gov.uk">lbxcs@anglesey.gov.uk</a><br/>01248 752586</b> |

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Vacancies arose in 2017 for two community councillors and one independent member to the Standards Committee.
- 1.2 Different procedures were followed to fill the vacancies.
- 1.3 Attached as **Enclosures 1 and 2** are the Reports to full Council on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2017 setting out the appointments process for the new members.

## **2. CURRENT POSITION**

- 2.1 The appointments have now been ratified by Council. Attached at **Enclosure 3** is the decision and relevant minute from that meeting confirming the same.
- 2.2 The new community council members are:-
- Councillor Iorwerth Roberts of Bryngwran Community Council  
and  
Councillor Keith Roberts of Treaddur Community Council.
- 2.3 The new independent member is Mr John Robert Jones.
- 2.4 The new appointments to the Standards Committee commenced with immediate effect following the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2017 Council meeting. The community councillor appointments will continue until the next local government elections or until such time as the appointees are no longer community council members, whichever occurs first. The independent member's term of office expires on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

| <b>ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL</b> |   |
|--|---|
| <b>MEETING:</b>                        | County Council  |
| <b>DATE:</b>                           | 12 December 2017  |
| <b>TITLE OF REPORT :</b>               | To Appoint Two Community Councillors to the Standards Committee   |
| <b>REPORT BY :</b>                     | Head of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer  |
| <b>CONTACT OFFICER :</b>               | Lynn Ball<br>Head of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer<br><a href="mailto:lbxc@anglesey.gov.uk">lbxc@anglesey.gov.uk</a><br>01248 752586 |
| <b>PURPOSE OF REPORT :</b>             | To Ratify the Nominations of the Community Councils' Representatives to the Standards Committee   |

## **BACKGROUND**

1. Under Part III of the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended by the Local Government Act 2006) the Council must have a Standards Committee consisting of no more than 9 members, the majority of whom must be independent members of the public.
2. The Standards Committee currently consists of 5 independent members (including one casual vacancy), 2 community councillors (both seats being vacant) and two county councillors (who are appointed annually by the Council).
3. Community council members must be collectively nominated by the community councils and their appointment ratified by Council.

## **COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR VACANCIES**

4. The Standards Committee includes two community councillors, who participate in the general business of the Committee, but deal with referrals from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales, and applications for dispensations, only when those matters relate to community councillors.
5. There is a requirement for the community council members to be collectively nominated by all the community councils after every local government election (or if either should cease to be a community councillor). Community council members are

eligible for reappointment to the Standards Committee, subject to receiving a further collective nomination from the community councils.

6. On the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017 the Monitoring Officer wrote to all community council clerks requesting nominations to be received by no later than 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017. By the closing date, seven nominations had been received and, on the 4<sup>th</sup> August 2017, a postal ballot was issued to all community councils requesting that each select a maximum of two candidates, returning the ballot paper to the Monitoring Officer by no later than 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017. By the deadline, 24 community councils had responded and 45 votes received. One community council responded but did not cast a vote and another cast only a single vote. The process followed was verified by the Chairman of the Council and the Chairman of the Standards Committee in a meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017 the Monitoring Officer informed all the community council clerks of the outcome of the ballot, confirming the two successful candidates were:-
  - **Councillor Iorwerth Roberts of Bryngwran Community Council and**
  - **Councillor Keith Roberts of Trearddur Community Council**
7. In the circumstances, the County Council is now required to approve the appointment of these councillors as co-opted members of the Standards Committee until the next local government elections, or for as long as they remain community councillors; whichever occurs first.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

To ratify the collective nominations of the community councils by appointing the following community councillors as co-opted members of the Standards Committee with immediate effect:-

- **Councillor Iorwerth Roberts of Bryngwran Community Council and**
- **Councillor Keith Roberts of Trearddur Community Council**

until the next local government elections, or until such time as the appointees are no longer community council members; whichever shall occur first.

## ENCLOSURE 2

| ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>MEETING:</b>                 | County Council   |
| <b>DATE:</b>                    | 12 December 2017   |
| <b>TITLE OF REPORT :</b>        | To Appoint a Co-opted Independent Member to the Standards Committee  |
| <b>REPORT BY :</b>              | Dr Haydn Edwards – Chair of the Standards Committee Selection Panel  |
| <b>CONTACT OFFICER :</b>        | Lynn Ball<br>Head of Function (Council Business) /<br>Monitoring Officer<br><a href="mailto:lbxcs@anglesey.gov.uk">lbxcs@anglesey.gov.uk</a><br>01248 752586 |
| <b>PURPOSE OF REPORT :</b>      | To Ratify the Recommendation of the Standards Committee Selection Panel  |

### **BACKGROUND**

1. Under Part III of the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended by the Local Government Act 2006) the Council must have a Standards Committee consisting of no more than 9 members, the majority of whom must be independent members of the public.
2. The Standards Committee currently consists of 5 independent members (including one casual vacancy), 2 community councillors (both seats being vacant) and two county councillors (who are appointed annually by the Council).
3. Independent members must be appointed by Council on the recommendation of the Standards Committee Selection Panel. The Standards Committee currently has one casual vacancy.

### **CASUAL VACANCY FOR AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

4. Statutory Regulations require that the independent members of Standards Committee be appointed by Council, but only after compliance with a statutory selection process. To conduct this recruitment and selection process the County Council has delegated its authority to the Standards Committee Selection Panel; which consists of one independent member of the public, one community councillor and three county

councillors. No member of the Selection Panel may also be a member of the Standards Committee.

5. In the meeting of the Standards Committee Selection Panel on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017, the Panel approved the recruitment process and the vacancy was advertised on the Council's website, Twitter, and Facebook (from 20/09/17 until 31/10/2017), North Wales Chronicle (on 28/9/17 and on 5/10/2017) and the Bangor and Anglesey Mail (on 27/9/2017 and on 4/10/2017).
6. The advertisement closed on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017 and the applications received were considered by the Standards Committee Selection Panel in a shortlisting process which took place on the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017.
7. Shortlisted candidates were interviewed by the Standards Committee Selection Panel on the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017, when the Panel agreed to nominate **Mr John Robert Jones** to be appointed to the role of independent member of the Standards Committee, subject to satisfactory references; which have since been received and assessed by the Chair of the Standards Committee Selection Panel.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

To accept the recommendations of the Standards Committee Selection Panel as follows:-

1. to appoint **Mr John Robert Jones** as co-opted independent member of the Standards Committee with immediate effect;
2. in the event that a further casual vacancy for an independent member of the Standards Committee arises during the next twelve months, to automatically appoint **Ms Sarah Laing Gibbens** to this role without need for a further recruitment process, provided always that this candidate remains eligible for the role, and subject to satisfactory references being received prior to the appointment.

**7. TO APPOINT A CO-OPTED INDEPENDENT MEMBER TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Submitted - a report by the Chair of the Standards Committee Selection Panel in relation to the appointment of a co-opted Independent Member to the Standards Committee.

Councillor R Meirion Jones, a Member of the Standards Committee Selection Panel addressed the meeting and said that the Standards Committee currently has a casual vacancy from the Independent Members on the Committee. He noted that there has been a recruitment process recently as noted within the report and at the Standards Committee Selection Panel held on 27th November, 2017 the Panel agreed to nominate Mr John Robert Jones to the role of independent member of the Standards Committee, subject to satisfactory reference which have since been received and assessed by the Chair of the Standards Committee Selection Panel.

Councillor A M Jones said that he would abstain from voting as regard to this matter as there is no member from the Opposition Group on the Standards Committee. He said that there had been a political balance from both the Opposition and Ruling Groups during the previous administration of this Council.

Councillors Aled M Jones, Eric W Jones, Bryan Owen, Peter S Rogers and Shaun Redmond abstained from voting.

**It was RESOLVED :-**

- **To appoint Mr John Robert Jones as co-opted independent member of the Standards Committee from immediate effect;**
- **In the event that a further casual vacancy for an independent member of the Standards Committee arises during the next twelve months, to automatically appoint Ms Sarah Laing Gibbens to this role without the need for a further recruitment process, provided always that this candidate remains eligible for the role, and subject to satisfactory references being received prior to the appointment.**

## 8. TO APPOINT TWO COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The report of the Head of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer in relation to the nomination of Community Councils' Representatives to the Standards Committee.

Councillor Dafydd R Thomas addressed the meeting that the Standards Committee includes two Community Councillors, who participate in the general business of the Committee, but deal with referrals from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales, and applications for dispensations, only when those matters relate to Community Councillors. There is a requirement for the Community Council Members to be collectively nominated by all the Community Councils after every local government election.

Councillor A M Jones said that he would abstain from voting as regard to this matter as there is no member from the Opposition Group on the Standards Committee and considered that the Group had been disenfranchised from the process.

Councillor Nicola Roberts asked the Monitoring Officer to explain the selection process to the Committee.

The Monitoring Officer explained that each Town/Community Councils are given the opportunity to submit nominations for no more than 1 Member of their council on the Standards Committee. Seven nominations had been received and a postal ballot was issued to all the Town/Community Councils requesting that each select a maximum of two candidates. Following the process, which was verified by the Chair of the Council and the Chair of the Standards Committee, the Monitoring Officer informed all the Town/Community Councils the outcome of the ballot and confirming the two successful candidates.

Councillors Aled M Jones, Eric W Jones, Bryan Owen, Peter S Rogers and Shaun Redmond abstained from voting.

**It was RESOLVED to ratify the collective nominations of the Community Councils by appointing the following Community Councillors as co-opted members of the Standards Committee with immediate effect :-**

**Councillor Iorwerth Roberts of Bryngwran Community Council and**

**Councillor Keith Roberts of Trearddur Community Council**

**Until the next local government elections, or until such time as the appointees are no longer Community Council members, whichever shall occur first.**