

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2017 - 2018

COUNCIL

29TH NOVEMBER 2017

**REPORT OF THE
DIRECTOR OF LEGAL &
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

Agenda Item No. 9

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE -
APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT AND
COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To enable Council to consider the Appointments Panel recommendations in respect of the appointment of an Independent Member and Community Council Member (plus reserve) to the Standards Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Council:

- 2.1 Approves the recommendation of the Appointments Panel to appoint Mr. John Thomas as an Independent Member of the Standards Committee for a term of six years commencing 30th November 2017;
- 2.2 Approves the recommendation of the Appointments Panel to appoint Community Councillor Raymond Butler (Llantwit Fardre) as the Community Council Member of the Standards Committee commencing 30th November 2017 for a further term until the next ordinary election for Llantwit Fardre Community Council;
- 2.3 Approves the recommendation of the Appointments Panel to appoint Community Councillor Carole Willis (Pontyclun) as the reserve Community Council Member of the Standards Committee commencing 30th November 2017 for a term until the next ordinary election for Pontyclun Community Council;
- 2.4 Subject to 2.1 above, to note Council will need to re-advertise the post of Independent Member (plus reserve) in light of only one applicant being recommended by the Panel for the available vacant positions; and
- 2.5 Authorises the Monitoring Officer to place a further advertisement in respect of the Independent Member (plus reserve) vacancies (based on

the established criteria for the post) and agree that the Appointments Panel (as constituted in paragraph 4.8 of the report) meets to consider applicants for those posts and that its recommendations be reported to Council at the appropriate time.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 In order to comply with statutory requirements about the establishment of a Standards Committee and to give effect to the recommendations of the Appointments Panel.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Standards Committee comprises six members; three Independent Members, two County Borough Councillors and one Community Councillor Member.
- 4.2 The Monitoring Officer advised Council at its meeting on 11th January 2017 that one of the Independent Members had resigned from his position on the Committee, as a result of a conflict which arose through new employment which meant he became disqualified under the relevant legislation from continuing in the role.
- 4.3 Council endorsed the procedures to be followed in appointing his replacement (including the appointment of a reserve Independent Member) and established an Appointments Panel to consider applications for the vacancies. The reserve Independent Member would be invited to attend a Standards Committee meeting in the absence of any of the three appointed Independent Members.
- 4.4 At the 11th January Council meeting Council also resolved to appoint a reserve Community Councillor Member and two reserve County Borough Councillors (1 Labour and 1 Plaid Cymru) to the Standards Committee.
- 4.5 In light of the local elections which were forthcoming at that time it was determined to delay the appointment of the Independent Member (plus reserve) and reserve Community Council Member until after those elections.
- 4.6 At the Council AGM in May Council resolved to consult with all Community and Town Councils in respect of the appointment of the Community Council Member (and reserve) onto the Committee. The Council wrote to all Clerks inviting nominations from their councils with regards to those vacancies. The Council received five applications for these posts.
- 4.7 Shortly after the election the Monitoring Officer received notification from Ms. Anne Jones, Independent Member of the Committee that she is resigning from the Committee due to a conflict with a post she would be

- taking up with the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales. The Council therefore needed to recruit an additional Independent Member.
- 4.8 On 18th October 2017, the Appointments Panel, comprising County Borough Councillors M. Weaver, M. Webber and C.J Willis, Community Councillor S. Liney and Mr M. Jehu (Chair of the Standards Committee), met to interview the four applicants for the two (plus reserve) Independent Member vacancies and consider the applications submitted for the Community Councillor Member (plus reserve) vacancies on the Committee.
- 4.9 Following the interviews of the Independent Member applicants and consideration of the Community Council Member applications, the Panel agreed to recommend to Council that:
- (i) Mr. John Thomas of Pontypridd be appointed as an Independent Member of the Standards Committee for a term of six years;
 - (ii) Community Councillor Raymond Butler of Llantwit Fardre Community Council be appointed as the Community Council Member of the Standards Committee for a further term until the next ordinary election for Llantwit Fardre Community Council; and
 - (iii) Community Councillor Carole Willis of Pontyclun Community Council be appointed as the Community Council Member of the Standards Committee for a term until the next ordinary election for Pontyclun Community Council.
- 4.10 Council's approval of the Appointment Panel's recommendations is now sought. While the law provides that the appointment of an Independent Member to the Standards Committee is made by the Council, the relevant regulations put great emphasis on the Appointments Panel recommendation being endorsed.
- 4.11 Subject to Council's approval it is proposed the recommended applicants take up their posts from 30th November 2017.
- 4.12 Subject to the appointment of the Independent Member, as recommended by the Appointments Panel, Members will note that the Council will need to re-advertise the post of Independent Member (plus a reserve) in light of only one applicant being recommended by the Panel for the vacant positions.
- 4.13 It is therefore proposed that the Monitoring Officer proceeds with a further advertisement in respect of the Independent Member (plus reserve) vacancies (based on the established criteria set out in the 11th January Council report) and the Appointments Panel (as constituted in 4.7 above) meet to consider applicants for those posts and its recommendations reported to Council at the appropriate time.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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Background Papers

Reports of the Director of Legal & Democratic Services

Appointment of new Independent Member to the Standards Committee:
Council – 11th January 2017

Membership of Standards Committee: Council - 17th May 2017