

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2017 - 2018

COUNCIL

28TH MARCH 2018

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

Agenda Item No. 10

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE -
APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER
(AND RESERVE INDEPENDENT MEMBER)**

**Author: Mr. Andy Wilkins, Head of Legal– Corporate & Democratic Services
(Tel: 01443 424189)**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To enable Council to consider the Appointments Panel recommendations in respect of the appointment of an Independent Member to the Standards Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Council:

- 2.1 Approves the recommendation of the Appointments Panel to appoint Mr. David J. J. Bowen as an Independent Member of the Standards Committee for a term of six years commencing 29th March 2018;
- 2.2 Subject to 2.1 above, to note the Council will need to re-advertise the post of reserve Independent Member in light of only one applicant being recommended by the Panel for the available vacant positions; and
- 2.3 Authorises the Monitoring Officer to place a further advertisement in respect of the reserve Independent Member vacancy (based on the established criteria for the post) and agree that the Appointments Panel (as constituted in paragraph 4.5 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.
- 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 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) until after those elections. Shortly after the election the Monitoring Officer received notification from Ms. Anne Jones, Independent Member of the Committee that she was 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 two Independent Members (and a reserve).
- 4.5 On 18th October 2017, the Appointments Panel comprising County Borough Councillors M. Webber, M. Weaver and C.J Willis, Community Councillor S. Liney and Mr M. Jehu (Chair of the Standards Committee and the Appointments Panel), met to interview the four applicants for the two (plus reserve) Independent Member vacancies.
- 4.6 Following the interviews of the applicants the Appointments Panel agreed to recommend to Council one of the four applicants for appointment as Independent Member. Members will recall that this applicant was then duly appointed by Council at its meeting on 29th November 2017. This meant there remained an Independent Member and reserve Independent Member vacancy on the Committee.
- 4.7 Consequently at its November meeting Council agreed that the Monitoring Officer re-advertise those vacancies (based on the established criteria set out in the 11th January Council report) and the Appointments Panel (as constituted in 4.5 above) meet to consider applicants for those posts and its recommendations be reported to Council at the appropriate time.
- 4.8 On 20th February 2018 the Appointments Panel met to interview the two applicants for the Independent Member (plus reserve) vacancies.

- 4.9 Following the interviews of the applicants the Panel agreed to recommend to Council that:
- (i) Mr. David J.J. Bowen of Aberdare be appointed as an Independent Member of the Standards Committee for a term of six years.
- 4.10 Council's approval of the Appointment Panel's recommendation 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 emphasis on the Appointments Panel recommendation being endorsed.
- 4.11 Subject to Council's approval it is proposed the recommended applicant take up his post from 29th March 2018.
- 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 reserve Independent Member 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 reserve Independent Member vacancy (based on the established criteria set out in the 11th January Council report) and the Appointments Panel (as constituted in 4.5 above) meet to consider applicants for that post and its recommendation be 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

Standards Committee – Appointment of Independent and Community Council
Members – Council – 29th November 2017

Officer to contact: Mr. Andy Wilkins (01443 424189)