



COUNCIL – 21ST FEBRUARY 2019

SUBJECT: STANDARDS COMMITTEE – APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

REPORT BY: HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES & MONITORING OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To appoint an independent member to the Standards Committee and to consider a recommendation for the appointment of two reserves.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report sets out the process undertaken to fill the vacancy that has arisen on the Council's Standards Committee.
- 2.2 The report recommends that Council accept the recommendations of the Appointments Panel in relation to the filling of the immediate vacancy and makes a second recommendation in relation to appointing two reserves to the Standards Committee when additional vacancies arise later in the year.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Council is asked to approve the following recommendations of the panel:-
- (a) Mr Christopher Finn is appointed for a period of 6 years as independent member of the Standards Committee;
 - (b) To establish a reserve list of independent members being Mr Jonathan Card and Mrs Linda Davies and that they are appointed to the Standards Committee for 6 years when the two further vacancies for independent members of the Standards Committee become available in October 2019.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

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

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 On the 14th February 2018 Mr Stone resigned as an independent member of the Standards Committee. The vacancy was advertised in the local press, through social media and the council's website.
- 5.2 In accordance with the relevant regulations, an Appointments Panel was established to consider all the applications received and to make a recommendation to Council. The Panel comprised of an elected member, Cllr Gale, the community member, Community Cllr Davies, Mrs Holdroyd, the Chair of the Standards Committee and the High Sheriff of Gwent, Mrs Linnard, who acted as the lay panel member.
- 5.3 The advertisement attracted four applications from individuals, all of whom met the criteria and were invited for interview. The interviews took place on 21st January, 2019.
- 5.4 Following the interviews, the panel considered that one of the candidates should be considered for immediate appointment and two of the candidates should be invited to be reserves for any further future vacancies on the Standards Committee. The panel agreed the following:-
- (a) That Mr Christopher Finn be recommended for appointment to the immediate vacancy.
 - (b) That Mr Jonathan Card and Mrs Linda Davies be retained on a reserve list for any future vacancies.
- 5.5 While the panel can make recommendations to the council, it is a decision for the Council to appoint independent members to its Standards Committee.
- 5.6 Two further vacancies for independent members will arise in October this year, as the Chair, Mrs Holdroyd, and Mrs Evans must stand down having served 2 terms on the Standards Committee.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 The council must appoint a Standards Committee, with 5 of the 8 members being independent lay members.

7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES

- 7.1 The Local Government Act 2000 says that all principal councils must have a Standards Committee. Caerphilly's Standards Committee has 8 members including 5 independent members. The appointment of a lay member will ensure that the Standards Committee is constituted in accordance with the terms of reference which are set out in the Council's Constitution.

8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 8.1 The Council is under a statutory duty to constitute a Standards Committee. The appointments comply with the following well-being goals:

- A resilient Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities

For more information about the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) 2015 Act, the seven well-being goals and the five ways of working, please see the Corporate Policy Unit Portal [Guidance for Well-being of Future Generations](#) and/ or visit the [CCBC Well-being of Future Generations website](#) and/ or the [Public Services Board website](#).

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 None arising from the report. The process undertaken takes account of equality implications.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 A cost was incurred for the press advertisement. There is existing provision for allowances for independent members and therefore there are no additional financial implications for the council.

11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are none.

12. CONSULTATIONS

- 12.1 A draft of the report was shared with the Leader, the relevant cabinet member and the leaders of the other political groups, together with the interim Chief Executive.

13. STATUTORY POWER

- 13.1 Local Government Act 2000 and regulations made under the Act. This is a Council function.

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Consultation: The Leader, Cllr Poole, Cllr Barbara Jones, Cllr Mann, Cllr Etheridge,
 interim Chief Executive – Christina Harrhy

