COUNCIL

Report of: Monitoring Officer
Date: 20 October 2016

AUDIT COMMITTEE - LAY PERSON MEMBERSHIP

Preparations need to be put in place to appoint a Lay Member to sit on the Council’s Audit Committee in readiness for the 2017/18 Municipal Year and ensuing years.

Sections 81 to 87 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 make provision for the establishment and composition of Audit Committees. Section 82(2)(b) of the Measure states that a local authority must secure that; “at least one member of its Audit Committee is a lay member”. The Statutory Guidance does not prescribe the method of appointment.

In the circumstances, it is recommended that the panel set up to interview and recommend appointment of Independent Standards Committee members is utilised for this purpose also.

On 12 May 2016, Council resolved, amongst other matters in relation to the Standards Committee that a panel; “be established to consist of a Lay Panel Member, a Community Council Member and three elected Members (not being members of the Standards Committee and appointed by Council); to be chaired by the Lay Panel Member, in order to consider applications in relation to any vacancies for the role of Independent Member and Community Council Member of the Standards Committee and to make recommendations to Council as appropriate”.

Delegated authority was given for the Monitoring Officer to “establish and publish criteria for the appointment of Independent Members to its Standards Committee in accordance with the 2001 Regulations and to issue a public advertisement, inviting applications for the role of Independent Member.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that:

1. The panel established by Council on the 12 May 2016 be utilised to interview candidates and recommend appointment to Council of the Lay Member for the Audit Committee for the Municipal Year 2017/18 and ensuing years until the following local government elections.
2. That the Monitoring Officer be granted delegated authority to establish and publish criteria for the appointment of a Lay Member to the Audit Committee.

Background Documents:

Minutes of the Council meeting of 12 May 2016