



Report of the Section 151 Officer

Council – 3 December 2020

Appointment of an Additional Lay Member to the Audit Committee

Purpose:	To consider the recommendation of the Appointments Committee to appoint an additional Lay Member to the Audit Committee.
Policy Framework:	None.
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal, Appointments Committee.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that Council: 1) Appoints Julie Davies as a Lay Member of the Audit Committee commencing 4 December 2020. 2) Their term of office shall end on 3 December 2025.
Report Author:	Simon Cockings
Finance Officers:	Ben Smith
Legal Officer:	Tracey Meredith
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 requires that each Council shall appoint an Audit Committee in line with the recommendation made by CIPFA in 2005.
- 1.2 The Welsh Government has provided statutory guidance covering the functions and membership of the Audit Committee. A copy of the guidance was provided to Council on 10 September 2020.

- 1.3 The City and County of Swansea has had an Audit Committee for a number of years and the Measure requires that a lay member is appointed to the Audit Committee. Up to a third of the Committee's membership can be comprised of lay members but there must be at least one lay member.
- 1.4 The Audit Committee currently has one Lay Member, who is also the Chair of the Committee. Following the completion of a benchmarking exercise comparing the number of Lay Members appointed to other Local Authority Audit Committees across Wales, the proposal has been put forward to appoint one additional Lay Member to the City and County of Swansea's Audit Committee. Members should also be made aware of the fact that adding an additional lay member will help ensure the committee is better equipped to meet possible proposed legislative changes to the Committee structure that are currently out for consultation.
- 1.5 Audit Committee Members were first asked to consider this proposal in December 2019. Members discussed the proposals and agreed to revisit the issue at a later date. Audit Committee considered this again at the meeting held in June 2020 and Members agreed to seek Council approval for the appointment of an additional Lay Member. Council approved the recruitment of an additional Lay Member on the 10 September 2020.
- 1.6 An advert was placed in the South Wales Evening Post and the Western Mail on 17 September 2020.

2. Appointments Committee

- 2.1 Six application forms were returned by the closing date.
- 2.2 The Appointments Committee met on the 5 November 2020 to consider the applications and agreed that four applicants should be invited for interview.
- 2.3 The Appointments Committee of 17 November 2020 interviewed the applicants. The Committee recommend that Julie Davies be appointed by Council as an additional Lay Member of the Audit Committee.

3. Equality and Engagement Implications

- 3.1 The Council is subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty (Wales) and must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Our Equality Impact Assessment process ensures that we have paid due regard to the above.

3.2 There are no equality and engagement implications associated with this report.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report beyond those set out in the original report on agreeing to create the additional lay member post.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 The relevant legislative provisions are set out in the report.

Background Papers: None.

Appendices: None.