



## Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

Council – 17 March 2022

# Appointment of Lay Members of the Governance & Audit Committee

<b>Purpose:</b>	To approve the recommendation of the Appointments Committee held on 1 March 2022 and appoint 2 further Lay Members to the Governance & Audit Committee.
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	None.
<b>Consultation:</b>	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	It is recommended that:  1) Gordon Anderson be appointed as Lay Member of the Governance & Audit Committee.  2) Phil Sharman be appointed as Lay Member of the Governance & Audit Committee.  3) The Term of Office for both being 24 May 2022 until the Local Government Elections in 2027.
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<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Debbie Smith
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	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 Governance & Audit Committee.
- 1.3 The City and County of Swansea has had a Governance and Audit Committee for a number of years but the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021 requires

additional lay members to be appointed to the Governance and Audit Committee. Up to a third of the Committee's membership can be Lay Members.

- 1.4 The Governance and Audit Committee currently has 2 Lay Members with one being the Chair of the Committee. Council approved the proposal to appoint three additional lay members to the Governance and Audit Committee on 7 October 2021. Following this, an advert was placed in the South Wales Evening Post and the Western Mail on 11 January 2022 inviting anyone interested to contact the Deputy Chief Executive for an informal discussion and an application form, the advert was also circulated to stakeholders and partners such as the PSB.

## **2. Appointments Committee**

- 2.1 As a result of the advert, 5 application forms were returned by the closing date.
- 2.2 The Appointments Committee met on the 9 February 2022 to consider the applications and agreed that four applicants should be invited for interview.
- 2.3 The Appointments Committee of 1 March 2022 interviewed all four applicants. The Committee recommend on the basis of the scoring and following consideration of the advice of the Deputy Chief Executive and Legal Officer that Gordon Anderson and Phil Sharman be appointed by Council as Lay Member of the Audit Committee.
- 2.4 The additional 2 candidates interviewed did not meet the threshold set by the Committee, so are not being recommended for appointment.
- 2.5 The Appointments Committee also asked that a further recruitment process is undertaken to recruit an additional Lay member to meet the requirements of the duty and achieve a third of the committee as Lay Members.

## **3. Integrated Assessment Implications**

- 3.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, 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 Acts.
  - 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.
  - Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage.
  - Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language.
  - Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
  - Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- 3.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2005 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being

of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

- 3.3 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.
- 3.4 An IIA screening has been undertaken and no adverse implications have been noted.

#### **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 members post.

#### **5. Legal Implications**

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

**Background Papers:** None.

**Appendices:** None.