

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 28 th January 2020
Report Subject	Appointment of an Independent Member to the Standards Committee
Report Author	Chief Officer (Governance)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

There is a vacancy for one Independent Member (co-optee) on the Standards Committee. In accordance with the regulations advertisements were placed in the local press, and also on line. In total there were nine applicants of whom six were shortlisted and interviewed. All candidates were of a high calibre but, following interview, it is recommended that Mark Morgan be appointed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That the Committee recommends to Full Council that Mark Morgan be appointed to the Standards Committee until the 27 th January 2026.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE RECRUITMENT PROCESS
1.01	<p>The Standards Committee consists of –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 elected Councillors;• 1 Town/Community Councillor;• 5 Independent Members who are co-opted following advertisement.
1.02	<p>There is currently a vacancy for an Independent Member. The vacancy was advertised in the press (as required) and also on line and through the network of Standards Committees in North Wales. Nine applications were received in total. All the applications were of a high standard. Following shortlisting six candidates were interviewed.</p>
1.03	<p>The Interview Panel consisted of the Chair of the Standards Committee, an Independent Member of the Standards Committee, a County Councillor on the Standards Committee (Cllr Arnold Woolley) and a Lay person. The Lay person is a statutory requirement and must be someone who is themselves recruited by open advertisement. In this instance the Lay person was Noela Jones who fulfils the role for a number of authorities in North Wales.</p> <p>The Chief Officer Governance was also in attendance to support and advise.</p>
1.04	<p>Whilst all applicants were of a high quality, one applicant stood out by reason of his experience and interpersonal skills. The interview panel was unanimous in recommending that Mark Morgan be appointed. A pen portrait is attached at Appendix 1.</p>
1.05	<p>An Independent Member can be appointed for between 4 and 6 years in their first term, and, if reappointed, for a maximum of 4 years in their second term. So that the retirement dates of the Independent Members is staggered (preventing a mass loss of experience at any one time), officers recommend that Mr Morgan be appointed for the maximum period in his first term. That is to say it is recommended that he is appointed until 27th January 2026.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	<p>The cost of placing the advert in the local press (as required by the legislation) was £6,267.93.</p>

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	<p>None.</p>

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	The application pack specified the essential characteristics required for the position of Independent Member. Each applicant's suitability was assessed using both the application form and a mix of pre-set interview questions (which were drafted to bring out each requirement) and follow up questions.
4.02	The advert and application pack were published bilingually, and the shortlisted candidates were offered the opportunity to be interviewed in Welsh.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Pen Portrait of Mark Morgan.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Application pack and advert. Contact Officer: Gareth Owens Telephone: 01352 702344 E-mail: Gareth.legal@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
	Independent Member - a member of the Standards Committee selected following an open recruitment process, and appointed by reason of his/her skills and experience.