

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2023
<b>Report Subject</b>	Appointment of a Lay Person to the Governance and Audit Committee
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Governance)

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 requires the Council to ensure that 1/3 of members on the Governance and Audit Committee are Lay Members.

The term of office for one of the existing Lay Members expires in December 2023, having already served four years. The Lay Member is willing to serve for a further term if the Council is willing to re-appoint him.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1	That Council reappoints the Lay Member for another four years until 31 December 2027.
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**REPORT DETAILS**

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE APPOINTMENT OF LAY MEMBERS</b>
1.01	The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 requires the Council to ensure that, with effect from May 2022, 1/3 of the members of the Governance and Audit Committee are Lay Members. The Committee contains three Lay Members at present.
1.02	One of the existing Lay Members, Allan Rainford, was appointed by the Council in September 2019 for a period of four years. His term of office therefore expires in December 2023. He has been a diligent and active member of the Committee and is its current chair. He is willing to serve again if the Council is willing to reappoint him.

1.03	If he is re-appointed, it is suggested that it should be for a further period of four years so that we recruit for a replacement in 2027 after the next elections. That will give a retirement pattern as follows:		
	<b>Lay Member</b>	<b>Retirement Date</b>	<b>Number of terms to date</b>
	Allan Rainford	31 December 2023	1
	Sally Ellis	31 May 2026	2
	Brian Harvey	31 December 2027	1

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	Each recruitment exercise costs around (£3,500 – £4,000) and requires support from both Councillors (typically a panel of five) and officers. However, it is the optimum manner to openly and transparently fill vacancies.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	The Chair of the Governance and Audit Committee.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	The key risks are that the Council does not recruit to the third position and that it loses the existing experienced Lay Member. Should the Committee not have sufficient Lay Members then its acts/decisions will be invalid (section 82(6) Local Government Measure 2011) until the position is filled.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	None

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	None  <b>Contact Officer:</b> Gareth Owens, Chief Officer Governance <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 702344 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:gareth.legal@flintshire.gov.uk">gareth.legal@flintshire.gov.uk</a>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	<p><b>Lay Member</b> – is defined by the Local Government Measure 2011 as a person who is not a member of the Council i.e. not already an elected Councillor.</p> <p><b>WLGA</b> – the representative body for all County and County Borough Councils in Wales. As well as representative role it also co-ordinates activity especially where all councils need to undertake a common task (e.g. recruiting Lay Members).</p>