

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 16 April 2024
Report Subject	Recruitment of a Town and Community Council Representative to the Standards Committee
Report Author	Chief Officer (Governance)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Standards Committee needs to include one member who represents the Town and Community Councils within Flintshire. Following the elections we made an appointment, but we now need to select a new representative because the previous representative had to step down due to ill health.

All Town and Community Councils were asked whether they wished to nominate candidates. 5 were nominated. Each then prepared a pen portrait, which was sent to all Town and Community Councils.

Councils were asked to select their 1st and 2nd preference candidates. The candidate with the most 1st preference votes would be chosen. The 2nd preference votes were to be used to break any tie where 2 or more candidates received an equal number of 1st preference votes.

Cllr Ros Griffiths from Saltney Town Council and Broughton and Bretton Community Council had a clear majority of both 1st and 2nd preference votes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That all the candidates be thanked for their interest.
2	That Cllr Ros Griffiths be appointed as the Town and Community Council representative until 6 th May 2027.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE RECRUITMENT OF A TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE		
1.01	The Standards Committee (Wales) Regulations 2006 (as amended) require the County Council to appoint a representative of the Town and Community Councillors in its area. The representative cannot be “dual hatted” i.e. they cannot also be a County Councillor.		
1.02	The previous Town and Community Council representative from Trelawnyd and Gwaenysgor Community Council had to step down due to ill health.		
1.03	The process for appointing such a representative is not specified in the legislation. In order to give the Town and Community Councils control over who would represent them, we use a process whereby they voted for the own representative (rather than, for example, the County Council holding interviews). A simple 2 preference system has been adopted so that, in the event of one or more candidates having an equal number of votes, there would be a second preference vote to help break the tie.		
1.04	All Town and Community Councils were asked if they wished to nominate a candidate by the 2 nd February 2024. 5 candidates were nominated. Those 5 candidates were asked to prepare a pen portrait of no more than 250 words so that the Town and Community Councils could choose between them. The deadline for receipt of portraits was also the 2 nd February.		
1.05	The pen portraits were circulated on 5 th February and Councils were asked to indicate their first and second preference by the 1st March. 20 Councils did so by the deadline, one asked for an extension to the 7 th March which was granted. The results are as set out in the table below. Cllr Ros Griffiths is the clear winner on first preference votes, and the result would be the same based on second preference votes as well.		
	Votes		
	Name	1st	2nd
	Cllr Bill Cooper	3	4
	Cllr Russell Davies	5	5
	Cllr David Ellis	2	2
	Cllr Ros Griffiths	9	6
	Cllr Patrick Heesom	2	1
	Note that not all councils indicated their second preference vote.		

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	The process adopted is not resource intensive. The costs are therefore minimal and easily absorbed.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	One Voice Wales must be consulted before the appointment can be made. I have outlined both the process and the result. One Voice Wales commented – “This seems to be a very fair way to proceed and produces a defensible outcome.”

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	The process gives a high level of influence to the Town and Community Councils which should help them feel engaged by the process. The recruitment process does not ask for any specific qualifications or any relevant experience. However, as the role is representative, the main criterion for appointment can be said to be the status of being a Town or Community Councillor. All further training will be provided in any event as part of the development programme for Committee members thereby addressing any current lack of knowledge or experience.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Pen Portraits.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Insert any hyperlinks to supporting documents if necessary.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Gareth Owens, Chief Officer (Governance) Telephone: 01352 702344 E-mail: gareth.legal@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	One Voice Wales – the membership/representative body for Town and Community Councils in Wales. It provides advice and training as well as acting as spokes body for the sector.