



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL

9th MARCH 2022

GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE – APPOINTMENT OF LAY MEMBERS
REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek Council's ratification of the appointment of Lay Members to the Governance & Audit Committee by the Council's Appointments Committee, at its meeting held on the 28th February 2022.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Council:

- 2.1 Notes the arrangements as set out in the report, relating to the appointment of new Lay Members to the Governance & Audit Committee for a term of office commencing from the beginning of the 2022-2023 Municipal Year until the next ordinary Local Government Elections; and
- 2.2 Ratifies the decision of the Appointments Committee in respect of the appointment of Lay Members to the Governance & Audit Committee as Mr Melvyn Jehu and Mr Julius Roszkowski.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To ensure compliance with the legislative requirement set out in the Local Government & Elections Wales Act 2021 that at least one third of the Governance & Audit Committee consist of Lay Members.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act (the Act) was passed by the Senedd on 18th November 2020, precisely a year after it was introduced in 2019 and received Royal Assent on 20th January 2021.
- 4.2 The link to the Act can be found here:
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asc/2021/1/contents/enacted>

- 4.3 Sections 116,117 & 118 refers to membership and meeting proceedings of Governance and Audit Committee. Section 116 requires that one third of the Committees membership must be made up from lay persons appointed by the Council. In addition, there is a requirement for the member appointed as the Chair to be a Lay Member.
- 4.4 At the Council meeting held on [20th October 2021](#) (Minute No.74 refers), it was agreed that membership of the Governance and Audit Committee be comprised of 6 Elected Members and 3 Lay Members to take effect from the Annual Meeting May 2022. The Committee cannot lawfully meet post May 2022 unless one third of its membership are Lay Members.
- 4.5 In view of the agreed proposal, it was necessary to appoint 2 additional lay persons to the Committee (following the agreed extension of the term of office of the existing Lay Member (and Chair) to the Governance & Audit Committee, Mr. Christopher Jones). The appointment of the Committee and allocation of seats to the Committee will be determined at the Annual General Meeting on the 25th May 2022, in accordance with the political composition of the Council at that time.

5. APPOINTMENT PROCESS

- 5.1 All Councils in Wales are subject to the same duty and so there has been national recruitment exercise with the assistance of the WLGA to advertise the positions. In addition, to promote greater awareness and encourage wider applications, details of the position were sent to as many stakeholder organisations and networks as possible.
- 5.2 Following receipt of the applications the Appointments Committee was scheduled for the [28th February 2022](#) in order for the interview and selection process to be undertaken.
- 5.3 Ratification is now sought by Council in respect of the recommended candidates by the Council's Appointments Committee. It is proposed the Lay Members be appointed for a term of office until the next ordinary Local Government Elections (currently scheduled for May 2027).
- 5.4 Three applicants were invited for interview demonstrating that they had met the criteria for the roles based on their application forms. The Appointments Committee, which consists of a cross-party membership of five County Borough Councillors, conducted the interview process in line with the Council's recruitment processes.
- 5.5 Following the interview and selection process, the Appointments Committee is now making its recommendations to Council in respect of the recommended candidates for ratification, namely:
- Mr Melvyn Jehu
 - Mr Julius Roszkowski

6. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 6.1 This report is for information purposes and therefore, no consultation is required.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING SOCIO ECONOMIC DUTY

- 7.1 There are no equality and diversity implications aligned to this report. The recruitment process advised upon provides an equitable chance of recruitment to all.

8. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS.

- 8.1 The Council positively supports the promotion and utilisation of the welsh language within the Democratic process and welcomes applications from bilingual candidates. Translation provision is available at Committee meetings and Committee papers are provided bilingually in accordance with the Welsh Language Standards.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Appointment to the above post will be on terms and conditions as outlined by legislation. Lay Members being entitled to claim expenses for their time for attending and preparing for Committee meetings and for attending any relevant training events. Lay Members may also claim subsistence expenses.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 10.1 Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 in relation to the membership of the Governance & Audit Committee (and associated Statutory Guidance), as amended by the Local Government & Election (Wales) Act 2021

11. LINKS TO CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

- 11.1 The work of the Governance & Audit Committee supports the delivery of the priorities contained within the Council's Corporate Plan – *The Way Ahead*, in particular 'Living Within Our Means' through ensuring that appropriate internal controls are in place to effectively manage resources.

12. CONCLUSION

- 12.1 Following the requirements of the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021 the appointment of additional Lay Members to the Governance & Audit Committee has been undertaken by the Appointments Committee which is seeking ratification of its recommendations to Council.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

Freestanding Report