

Meetup	Full Council
Date	05 February 2026
Subject	Re-appointment of an Independent Member to the Standards Committee
Author	Iwan Evans, Monitoring Officer
Decision Sought	Approval for the re-appointment of an Independent Member to the Standards Committee

1. Gwynedd Council's Standards Committee is made up of five 'independent members' (individuals who have no connection with local government), plus one community council member and three elected members of Gwynedd Council.
2. The relevant regulations (the Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001) allow the authority to appoint independent members for an initial term of between four and six years and to re-appoint them for a further consecutive period, of not more than four years. The ability to re-appoint allows for continuity but at the same time prevents an individual from becoming too embedded in the committee. It also means that the Committee does not lose the experience and expertise that a member has gained during his/her service.
3. A statutory procedure is laid down for the appointment of independent members, which includes the advertisement of the vacant seat and the interview of candidates by an appointment panel. The panel will make a recommendation to the Full Council, which has the right to make the appointment. Nevertheless, there is no need to follow this advertising and interview process when reappointing independent members.
4. Hywel Eifion Jones has been a member since 2019 and has served as Chair of the Committee since 2023. His first term ended in July last year and the vacancy has not been filled in the meantime. Although it is customary to obtain a decision to re-appoint before the end of the first term and to ensure an uninterrupted period of membership, the regulations do not prevent the authority from appointing an independent member for a second term where there has been a gap as the case here. The period is consecutive and no action has been taken in the meantime to break the succession. A second term of membership would commence from the date of the decision to reappoint. He is eligible for reappointment, and has expressed his willingness to serve for a further period.

Recommendation

5. To re-appoint Hywel Eifion Jones as an independent member of the Standards Committee to serve for a further term of four years from 5th February 2026.

Views of Statutory Officers

Monitoring Officer

Responsible Officer

Chief Finance Officer

No objections from the perspective of financial propriety