

<b>Committee :</b>	<b>The Standards Committee</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>23 February 2026</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>The Standards Committee's Membership</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Siôn Huws, Propriety and Elections Manager</b>
<b>Purposes</b>	<b>For Information</b>

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 Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001 ("the Regulations") 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.

### **The Current Situation**

4. At its meeting on 5 February 2026 the Full Council re-appointed Hywel Eifion Jones was a further period of four years as an Independent Member of the Committee.

5. A vacancy has arisen following the recent resignation of one of the Independent Members, Sonya Khade. In addition, following 10 years of valuable service to the Committee, Aled Jones' second term of membership will come to an end in March this year. We will therefore be advertising the two vacant seats with the intention of presenting the recommendations of the Appointment Panel to the Full Council meeting on 14 May 2026.

6. The Regulations have recently been amended to relax somewhat the rules which prevented former members and former officers of the Committee's authority from being appointed as independent members. From now on, therefore, a person may not become an independent member if:

- a member or officer (or the spouse or civil partner of a member or officer) of any county/county borough council, fire authority, national park authority, or a community/town council
- a former member of Cyngor Gwynedd until the expiry of the period of two years since the date on which that person ceased to be a member or, if he/she held a senior, cabinet or executive post, the expiry of the period of five years since that person last ceased to hold such a post.
- a former officer of Cyngor Gwynedd if that person held a politically restricted post, or the post of registration officer, until the expiry of the period of two years from the date which that person last ceased to hold such a post

### **Recommendation**

7. The Committee is asked to note the information