

Meeting	Full Council
Date	14 May 2025
Subject	Appointment of Members to the Standards Committee – Interview Panel Recommendations
Awdur	Iwan Evans, Monitoring Officer
Decision Sought	Approval of Interview Panel's recommendation to appoint Independent Members to the Standards Committee

Background

1. The Gwynedd Standards Committee comprises five independent members, three Gwynedd councillors and one community councillor
2. The second term of one independent member came to an end in March, and another independent member stepped down from the committee in the Autumn.
3. The appointment of members of the Standards Committee is governed by the Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001 (“the Regulations”). The Regulations require the Council to carry out a public recruitment exercise as specified in the Regulations and to establish an appointments panel (comprised of up to five panel members, and including one lay panel member and one community councillor), to assess applications against the criteria established by the Council for the post, and to make a recommendation on appointment to full Council.
4. The decision on appointment must be made by full Council, having regard to the recommendation of the Appointments Panel.
5. The vacancies were advertised in accordance with the statutory provisions and three applications were received.
6. In accordance with the Council's procedures an Appointments Panel was established, which comprised Mr Eifion Jones, Chair of the Standards Committee, Community Councillor Richard Parry Hughes (Community Member of the Standards Committee), Gwynedd Councillors Ioan Thomas, Chair of the Council and Councillor Anne Lloyd Jones Chair of the Democracy Services Committee and Mr Griffith Jones as a statutory lay member.
7. The Panel, with the support and advice of the Monitoring Officer, interviewed the candidates on 22nd April 2026. Given the criteria set out in the person specification for the role, the Panel recommended the appointment of Mrs Carys Edwards and Mr Neil Hawkins as independent members. The Panel considered them to be strong candidates who met the criteria for appointment and were willing to recommend them to these roles.

8. Carys who lives in Parc, Bala has held senior officer positions in the Isle of Anglesey County Council and the Welsh Government. She already serves as a lay member on the Governance and Audit Committee and the Governance and Audit Committee of Wrexham County Borough Council. She has also spent time on the management board of Grŵp Cynefin and the Management Board of Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board as an independent adviser.

9. Neil lives in Bangor and has a background in education and charity. Until 2021 he was Principal of Concord College, an international school. He chaired the charity "Humanists UK" until 2025 and serves as Chair of the charities "Befrienders Worldwide" and "Tough to Talk", suicide prevention charities.

9. The Regulations provide that the independent members' terms of office must be set at between four and six years.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Council appoint Carys Edwards and Neil Hawkins as Independent Members of the Standards Committee for a period of 6 years.

Statutory Officers' Comments

Monitoring Officer

Responsible Officer

Chief Finance Officer

No objection from the point of view of financial propriety.