



APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Standards Committee

The Standards Committee plays a central role in the ethical framework that governs the conduct of local authority members. Every member of Gwynedd Council and of every community and town council has undertaken to abide by the Code of Conduct for Members. The Committee's main role is to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by these councillors and to assist them to observe the Members' Code of Conduct.

The Committee has certain specific functions including considering complaints that members have breached the Code of Conduct and to impose a sanction where appropriate. It also considers applications made by members for dispensations to allow them to take part in discussions even though they have a prejudicial interest under the Code. Additionally, the Committee is responsible for overseeing Gwynedd Council's Gifts and Hospitality Protocol for Members.

The Independent Members

The Committee consists of 5 independent members, 3 Gwynedd councillors, and 1 member of a community/town council. Gwynedd Council has established criteria for deciding upon applications to serve as an independent member on the committee:

Applicants will be required to demonstrate independence and impartiality in assisting the Standards Committee in promoting, maintaining and improving ethical arrangements within Gwynedd Council and the county's community/town councils.

The work of the Committee will require the independent members to possess the following qualities and skills:-

- Listening skills;
- Ability to understand and weigh up evidence;
- Ability to come to an objective view by reference to the evidence;
- Teamworking skills;
- Respect for others and an understanding of diversity issues;
- Discretion;
- Personal integrity.

A detailed knowledge of local government is not necessary although it would be an advantage if potential candidates were interested in matters relating to public life and services. In addition, independent members must: -

- Be eligible for selection as an independent member (*see below as to who cannot be an independent member**);
- Be well respected in the community;
- Be able to meet the time commitment involved and be available at short notice;
- Be able to provide two references.

The ability to speak Welsh will be considered to be an advantage and the need to achieve a balance of skills, qualities and expertise on the Committee as well as the need to represent the community as a whole and achieve a geographical spread will all be taken into account.

It is envisaged that the Standards Committee will meet on about 3 occasions each year although the member will need to have some flexibility given that there may be some uncertainty over the exact amount of time required. The member will receive an allowance based on meetings attended, in accordance with the rates determined by the [rates determined by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales](#) , together with travelling costs.

Who is eligible to be an Independent Member?

A person cannot be an independent if he/she is:

- a councillor or officer (or the spouse or civil partner to a councillor or officer) of any county/county borough council, fire authority, national park authority, or a community/town council

- a former councillor or officer of Gwynedd Council.

Former councillors or officers of other county/county borough councils, fire authorities or national parks cannot be independent members until the expiry of 12 months since they ceased to be a councillor or officer of such an authority.

The Appointment Process

The Council is obliged to set up a Consultative Panel to consider applications. The Panel, after interviewing all applicants, will present its recommendation to a meeting of the Full Council, which will make the appointment.

Applications must be submitted on the appropriate Application Form accompanied by 2 letters of reference.

Successful candidates will be expected to take up their appointments immediately and serve, subject to termination or resignation, for 6 years.

The Authority is an Equal Opportunities employer and provider of services and welcomes applications from women, young people, disabled people and people from ethnic minorities.

Further information about the Committee can be found on our website – www.gwynedd.gov.uk/standardscommittee

For further details or an informal discussion contact Siôn Huws, Propriety and Elections Manager), e-mail: sionhuws@gwynedd.gov.uk ; tel: (01286) 679168.