

Report of: Monitoring Officer

Subject: Standards Committee – Re-Appointment of Independent Member

Decision Required: Yes

Recommendation:

The Authority is recommended to re-appoint Mr Phillip Davies as an Independent Member of the Standards Committee for a period of four years until the 6th May 2029.

1. Key Messages

- 1.1 Members are asked to re-appoint Mr Phillip Davies as an Independent Member of the Authority's Standards Committee before his current term of office comes to an end on 6 May 2025.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority's Standards Committee comprises seven Members:

Independent Members: Mr John Daniels (Chair);
Mr John Hogg; (Deputy Chair) and
Mr Phillip Davies
(Vacancy)

Authority Members: Dr Rosetta Plummer;
Councillor Dr SL Hancock
Councillor M James.

- 2.2 The Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001 stipulate that:

- (a) the term of office of an Authority Member of the Standards Committee "shall be no more than four years, or the period until that Member's appointment as a Member of that Authority ceases, whichever is the shorter", while
- (b) the term of office of an Independent Member of the Standards Committee "shall be not less than four nor more than six years". This Authority has previously resolved that the term of office for an Independent Member shall be five years.

- 2.3 The 2001 Regulations also stipulate that an Authority Member may be re-appointed for one further consecutive term, whilst an Independent Member is prevented from serving more than one term of office as such a Member.
- 2.4 However, the Standards Committees (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 (the 2006 regulations) now provides for the re-appointment of an Independent Member for one further consecutive term of **four years** without the need for advertising a vacancy.
- 2.5 Mr Phillip Davies was appointed as an independent member of the Standards Committee on 6th May 2020 for a period of 5 years and therefore his appointment will cease on 6th May 2025. Accordingly, it is under the 2006 Regulations that approval is sought for the re-appointment of Mr Phillip Davies as an Independent Member of the Authority's Standards Committee for a further period of 4 years until 6th May 2029.
- 2.6 Members will note from paragraph 2.1 that there is currently a vacancy on the Committee due to the resignation of Mrs Wendy Taylor as an independent Member of the Standards Committee. It will be necessary to advertise the vacancy and convene meetings of the Standards Committee Appointments Panel in the coming months.

3. Consultation

- 3.1 Mr Davies has expressed a willingness to serve on the Standards Committee for a further four years.

4. Strategic Policy Context

- 4.1 The information and recommendation(s) contained in this report are consistent with the Authority's statutory purposes and its approved strategic policy context.
- 4.2 The Authority's Standards Committee is a key support for the Authority's Governance Principles outlined in the Code of Corporate Governance.

5. Financial Considerations

- 5.1 The proposal recommended has no immediate budgetary implications. Independent Members of the Standards Committee receive an attendance allowance and travelling expenses in respect of meetings attended. These are included within existing budgets.

6. Risk and Compliance Considerations

- 6.1 If Members decide not to re-appoint but to advertise the vacancy instead, there is always a risk that no-one would apply. The recent advertisement for a new Independent Members had to be extended and resulted in only 2 applications.

7. Impact on our Public Sector Duties

7.1 Integrated Assessment Completed: No

7.2 Equality, Socio-Economic, Health and Human Rights Impacts

7.2.1 One could argue that the non-advertisement of a vacancy on the Standards Committee precludes anyone else from applying, however a vacancy on the Committee will be advertised in the coming months.

7.3 Welsh Language Impacts

7.3.1 Re-appointment of the Member will have neither negative nor positive impacts on the Welsh Language. As noted above, a vacancy on the Committee will be advertised in the coming months and Welsh speakers will be encouraged to apply.

7.4 Section 6 Biodiversity Duty and Carbon Emission Impacts

7.4.1 There are no impacts on biodiversity or carbon emissions.

7.5 Well-being Goals for Wales and 5 Ways of Working (Sustainable Development Principles) Impacts

7.5.1 Effective governance supports the Authority's compliance with the Well-being Goals for Wales and the Sustainable Development Principles.

8. Conclusion

8.1 Recruiting Independent Members of the Standards Committee did not prove easy in 2024 and as Mr Davies is an experienced Member of the Committee it is recommended that he is reappointed for a further four years.

9. List Background Documentation:

Local Government Act 2000

The Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001

The Standards Committees (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006

(For further information please Michael Kent, michaelk@pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk)