

Report of: Monitoring Officer

Subject: Appointment of Independent Member of the Standards Committee

Decision Required: Yes

Recommendation:

Under Regulation 16(2) of the Standards Committee (Wales) Regulations 2001, Members are invited to consider and have regard to the recommendation of the Standards Committee Appointments Panel and complete the appointment process of Mr Rhodri Pryce Lewis and Mr Lyndon Freeman for a period of 5 years from the 30 July 2025.

1. Key Messages

It is essential that the number of independent members of the Standards Committee is maintained in accordance with regulatory requirements.

2. Background

Members will be familiar with the purpose of the Standards Committee and will be aware from the annual report of the Monitoring officer presented to the National Park Authority on 18th June 2025 of the current makeup of the Standards Committee and that Wendy Taylor who was appointed as an independent member of the Standard Committee for a period of five years in May 2020 resigned with immediate effect in February 2025.

Consequently, and in accordance with the regulatory requirements the vacant post was advertised, and five applicants came forward all of whom were invited for interview, although only four accepted the invitation. Consequently the Standards Committee Appointments Panel met in person on 17th June 2025. The two candidates whose appointment is recommended in this report are both of high calibre and because of the difficulty in appointing independent members previously, the panel decided to recommend the appointment of two independent members, rather than just one. The additional appointment does not offend the regulatory requirements governing the make-up and size of the Standards Committee. The minutes of that meeting of the Appointments Panel appear elsewhere in this agenda.

Members are accordingly requested to accept the recommendation in this report. A short resume of the proposed new independent members background and experience will be distributed by e mail before this meeting of the NPA.

3. Consultation

The written applications of the four interviewees were made available to Members of the Standards Committee Appointments Panel in good time before the panel met. After the interviews took place there was adequate time for the merits of each application to be discussed by members of the panel and to reach the recommendation contained in this report.

4. Strategic Policy Context

The information and recommendation contained in this report are consistent with the Authority's statutory purposes.

Accepting the recommendation in this report will ensure the NPA's compliance with its regulatory obligations concerning the Standards Committee and will enhance the NPA's Code of Corporate Governance.

5. Financial Considerations

There are no significant resource or financial implications arising from the proposal except that the additional member will have to be paid an attendance allowance, in accordance with the determinations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales and will be able to claim travel expenses. Conversely the significant costs of advertising for another member should a vacancy arise would be avoided.

6. Risk and Compliance Considerations

Appointments of independent members to the Standards Committee are made in accordance with the Standards Committee (Wales) Regulations 2001.

The risk of failing to comply with legislation and governance requirements is highlighted on the Authority's risk register, with the work of the Standards Committee as a key control to mitigate this risk. Ensuring that the Standards Committee is properly constituted and fit for purpose will reduce the risk of a procedural irregularity arising which may have financial and reputational risks for the Authority.

7. Impact on our Public Sector Duties

7.1 Integrated Assessment Completed: No

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

The advertisement stated that the Authority is committed to equality of opportunity for all staff and applications from individuals are encouraged regardless of age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief and marriage and civil partnerships.

7.3 Welsh Language Impacts

The advertisement stated that applications could be submitted in Welsh or English; an application submitted in Welsh would not be treated less favourably than an application submitted in English.

7.4 Section 6 Biodiversity Duty and Carbon Emission Impacts

Apart from some resources which will be used by the additional member whose appointment is recommended there are no implications for biodiversity or carbon emissions.

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

Public confidence in good governance of local authorities supports the wellbeing goals in respect of a more equal Wales, a Wales of cohesive communities and a globally responsible Wales. The recommended appointments will ensure the Standards Committee is properly constituted and with sufficient independent members for the foreseeable future.

8. Conclusion

Members are invited to consider and have regard to the recommendation of the Standards Committee Appointments Panel in respect of the appointment of an Independent Member of the Standards Committee. The recommended appointments will ensure the Standards committee is well able to perform its primary function of dealing with allegations of breaches of the Members code of Conduct.

9. List Background Documentation:

[Standards Committee \(Wales\) Regulations 2001](#)

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