

COUNCIL MEETING - 9 MARCH 2021

APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER TO THE AUDIT & ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek approval from Council to appoint an Independent Member on a non-voting basis onto the Audit & Accounts Committee.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Audit & Accounts Committee on 3 February 2021 a report was tabled relating to the review of an Independent Member being co-opted onto the Audit & Accounts Committee.
- 2.2 The report detailed that within the recommendations from the Sir Tony Redmond review on the arrangements in place to support the transparency and quality of local authority financial reporting and external audit, local authority's should review whether an Independent Member is appropriate to be co-opted onto their Audit Committees.
- 2.3 The report detailed the regulatory environment together with CIPFA's guidance from its 2018 publication "Audit Committees: Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police". The report is attached as **Appendix A**.
- 2.4 The minutes of the meeting show that the Committee unanimously agreed to recommend to Full Council to co-opt an Independent Member onto the Audit & Accounts Committee; delegate to the Business Manager – Financial Services in consultation with the Chair of the Audit & Accounts Committee the process for selecting and recommending an appropriate candidate and for a report to be brought back to Full Council to approve the appointment of the recommended candidate.
- 2.5 The proposed role profile for the Independent Member is attached at **Appendix B** for Members to review.
- 2.6 Should Council approve the recommendations; a recruitment panel comprising of the Chair of the Audit & Accounts Committee, the Business Manager – Financial Services and a further member from the Audit & Accounts Committee would be convened in order to progress the recruitment of the Independent member.
- 2.7 Once the recruitment process has been concluded a further report would be brought back to Council, in order to approve the appointment of the recommended candidate.

3.0 Financial Implications (FIN20-21/3346)

- 3.1 The proposed remuneration of £500 together with an allowance of £500 for reasonable expenses has been added to the proposed revenue budget elsewhere on this agenda in order to fund the Co-opted Independent member should the recommendations be approved.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that:

- (a) the Council approve the creation of a Co-opted Independent member on a non-voting basis onto the Audit & Accounts Committee; and**
- (b) the process for selecting and recommending an appropriate candidate be delegated to the Business Manager – Financial Services in consultation with the Chairman of the Audit & Accounts Committee, and that a report is brought back to the Council to approve the appointment of the recommended candidate.**

Background Papers

CIPFA Audit Committees Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police
NAO Report – Local Authority Governance

For further information please contact Nick Wilson, Business Manager – Financial Services on Ext 5317.

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