



Annual Council

21 May 2015

Subject: Re-Appointment of Independent Members to serve on the Governance and Audit Committee

Report by:

Monitoring Officer

Contact Officer:

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Purpose / Summary:

To re-appoint two independent Members to serve on the Governance and Audit Committee.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the persons named in paragraph 2.1 be appointed to serve on the Governance and Audit Committee as from 21 May 2015 up to the Annual Council Meeting in May 2017.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

If Council support the recommendation, both Members will have co-opted status and be bound by the adopted Members' Code of Conduct.

Financial : FIN/19/16

There will be a payment of £38.18 for the first hours of attendance at a meeting and a second payment for attendance in excess of four hours. This payment is currently under review and can be met from the existing budget for payment to Members. Following the resolution made by Policy and Resources Committee independent members are also eligible to claim from the Members ICT Provision Scheme, again this can be met from existing budget provision.

Staffing : None related to this report

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

N/A

Risk Assessment :

N/A

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities :

N/A

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

x

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

x

1 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 At the Annual Meeting of Council in May 2010 it was agreed to appoint an Independent Member from outside the Authority to serve on the Governance and Audit Committee.
- 1.2 An appointment was made in 2010 and subsequently extended until 2012. It was therefore necessary to re-advertise the post to appoint an independent Member on the Governance and Audit Committee from 2012 onwards
- 1.3 Two applicants applied and during the interview process both candidates proved eminently suitable, so it was agreed that they both be appointed (Mrs Alison Adams and Mr Steven Wallace), as the Council's Constitution states "the Committee will include at least one independent Member." These appointments were approved by Annual Council in May 2012 for the period up to Annual Council in May 2015.
- 1.4 Following the resignation of one of these Members (Mr Wallace) in February 2014 a further appointment was made following a recruitment process, with the Council at its meeting in 28 July 2014 agreeing to appoint Mr Walton until May 2015, bringing the appointment in line to expire at the same time as the previous appointment.
- 1.5 In light that both appointments were due to expire in May 2015, the Governance and Audit Committee's views regarding the future of independent members serving on the Committee were sought at their Meeting on 8 January 2015.
- 1.6 The arising Minute from this debate is set out below: -

65 DISCUSSION ITEM - CO-OPTED MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Members were asked to give consideration to the following areas in respect of the future of co-opted Members on the Committee: -

1. The number of co-opted Members
2. The terms of office for each
3. The recruitment process for co-opted Members
4. Remuneration

Discussion ensued during which the following views and comments were noted: -

In respect of 1: The Committee were of the view that the number should be increased and suggested three in total.

In respect of 2: The Committee were of the view that the term of office for each should be four years but that these should be

staggered. ie not all expiring on the same date. A number of suggestions as to how this could be achieved were made. It was also suggested the current co-opted Members be retained for a suggested two year period initially and an additional Member be recruited from May 15.

In respect of 3: The recruitment process remain that which had previously been adopted. Namely, external advert followed by an interview with the Monitoring Officer and Chair of Governance and Audit Committee.

In respect of 4: The remuneration level be reconsidered, either by the remuneration panel or another appropriate body / officer.

There was also a general discussion regarding the size of the Committee in the future. All were of the view that this should be reduced if possible, be non-political and if necessary have political balance rules suspended to achieve such.

RESOLVED that the views expressed above be taken into consideration when recruiting in May 2015.

2. Proposal

2.1 In light of the views expressed by the Governance and Audit Committee and detailed above it is **RECOMMENDED** that the persons named below be appointed to serve as the Independent Members on the Governance and Audit Committee until the Annual Meeting of Council in May 2017.

- **Mrs Alison Adams**
- **Mr Peter Walton**

3. Future Plans

3.1 A recruitment exercise was undertaken during March 2015 to seek a further Independent Member to serve on the Governance and Audit Committee, again in line with the views expressed by the Committee set out at 1.6 above.

3.2 Unfortunately only one person expressed an interest, but was unable to make the interview date. It is intended to re-advertise the position and in the event that a suitable candidate is found a further recommendation will be made to Full Council.