



Council

10 November 2025

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS TO GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE

Report by:

Monitoring Officer

Contact Officer:

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Purpose / Summary:

To approve the appointment of an Independent Person to Governance & Audit Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Mrs Alison Adams and Mr Alexio Chandiwana be appointed to serve as Independent Members on the Governance & Audit Committee for a term of office expiring at the Annual Council Meeting in May 2029.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: The Local Government Act 1972 provides that a Council may include up to 3 persons who are not members of the authority on a committee, and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) recommends that each authority's governance and audit committee should include at least two independent members to ensure the committee to carry out its role effectively.

Financial : FIN/114/26/DN

The role carries a small allowance of £60 per meeting plus mileage and broadband allowance of £20 per month may be claimed. The independent lay Members also receive a Council device to use for Council purposes only.

These costs can be met from existing budgets

Staffing : None

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights : None

Risk Assessment : None

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities

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

None

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

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No

x

Key Decision:

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

Yes

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No

x

1. Background

- 1.1 It is standard good practice for an Audit Committee to appoint independent non-voting Members to the Committee and this is provided for in relevant legislation. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) recommends that each authority's audit committee should include at least two independent members to ensure the committee to carry out its role effectively.
- 1.2 The Council's Term of Reference allow for a minimum of one independent Member however the committee currently operates with two such Members, Mr Andrew Morris (appointed until May 2027) and Mrs Alison Adams, but has operated with up to three Members in recent previous years (up until May 2022). Members terms of office expire on a rolling four-year basis to allow for some level of continuity.
- 1.3 Recruitment to these roles can often be difficult, hence the flexibility afforded in the Committee's Term of Reference and the reduction in membership, from May 2022.
- 1.4 The term of office for independent member, Mrs Alison Adams, expired earlier in the year.
- 1.5 The role was advertised on the Council's website and social media platforms. Two applications were received from Mrs Alison Adams who re-applied and Mr Alexio Chandiwana.
- 1.6 The role carries a small allowance of £60 per meeting plus mileage and broadband allowance of £20 per month may be claimed.
- 1.7 Mrs Adams of course has experience of serving as an Independent Member on the Council's Governance and Audit Committee and is regarded as being highly effective in this role and has been an asset to the committee and its work. It is therefore recommended that Mrs Adams be reappointed.
- 1.8 Councillor S Bunney, Chairman of Governance & Audit, and Mrs Lisa Langdon, Monitoring Officer met with Mr Chandiwana on 7 October. Mr Chandiwana has a career grounded in governance, financial oversight, and strategic advisory roles spanning both global corporations and UK government agencies and currently serves as an Advisory Board Member for Microsoft, shaping global strategies around ethical technology deployment, data governance, and sustainable innovation. Previous experience has also seen Mr Chandiwana work with several UK government agencies on initiatives involving digital transformation, regulatory compliance, and public sector governance, and accounting.
- 1.9 It is felt that Mr Chandiwana would also add value to the committee's work and additional independence on the Committee and increased engagement from the local community is to be welcomed. It is therefore recommended that Mr Chandiwana also be appointed as an Independent Member on the Governance and Audit Committee.
- 1.10 The recommendations re-establish the independent representation on the Council's Governance and Audit Committee to three non-voting members.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Mrs Alison Adams and Mr Alexio Chandiwana is appointed to serve on the Governance & Audit Committee for a term of office expiring at the Annual Council Meeting in May 2029.