

## **Report to COUNCIL**

# **Independent Member of Audit Committee**

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Abdul Jabbar, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate Services and Sustainability

**Officer Contact:** Executive Director of Resources

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### **Reason for Decision**

The Audit Committee has a leading role to play in ensuring that the Council's governance and internal control arrangements are effective and contribute to the mitigation of risks. As the complexity of Council operations, and especially of the financial accounts, increases, it is important that the Committee is resourced to play its part in mitigation of risks that may arise from areas that it oversees. The introduction of a suitably skilled and experienced second independent member would strengthen the Audit Committee and ensure that the Committee complies with best practice.

### **Recommendations**

1. That Mr Stuart Green be appointed as the second independent member of the Audit Committee, for a four year term ending at the end of the municipal year 2029, and that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to finalise the conditions of appointment to this role.
2. That the second Independent Member be appointed to the position of Vice Chair of the Audit Committee.

**Appointment of Independent Member of the Audit Committee****1 Background**

- 1.1 The Council has undertaken a recruitment process to appoint to the position of Independent Member on the Audit Committee. The recruitment panel comprised the Independent Chair of the Audit Committee, the Executive Director of Resources and the Monitoring Officer supported by the Head of Internal Audit and the Assistant Director of Governance. If appointed, the second independent member would be invited to serve for a term of office of four years. It is a matter for full Council to confirm this appointment.
- 1.2 The Audit Committee, at its meeting on 23rd July 2025, supported the nomination of Councillor Al-Hamdani as the Vice Chair of the Committee; however, the appointment is a matter for determination by the full Council. It is recommended that the second Independent Member be appointed as the Vice Chair of the Audit Committee to support the current Independent Chair of the Audit Committee, which is seen by Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) as best practice.

**2 Options/Alternatives**

- 2.1 The Council could decide not to appoint the recommended candidate, and a further selection process would need to be undertaken. The Council could invite nominations for the role of Vice Chair of the Audit Committee.

**3 Preferred Option**

- 3.1 To accept the recommendation to appoint to the position and that the second Independent Member be appointed as Vice Chair of the Audit Committee.

**4 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 Independent Members are paid an allowance as detailed within the Council's approved Members Allowance Scheme. There is budgetary provision within the Council's revenue base budget and as such there is no adverse financial impact as a result of this appointment.

Vickie Lambert

**5 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 The responsibility of appointments is a matter of the full Council.

**6. Procurement Implications**

- 6.1 None.

**7 Equality Impact, including implications for Children and Young People**

- 7.1 No.

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8	<b>Key Decision</b>
8.1	No.
9	<b>Background Papers</b>
9.1	None.
10	<b>Appendices</b>
10.1	None.