Report to Council

Independent Member on Audit Committee

Officer Contact: Chief Executive

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Reason for Decision

The Audit Committee has an important role in providing independent assurance and oversight of the Council's governance, risk management, internal control, financial reporting and audit arrangements. Effective participation by members of the Committee is important to supporting the discharge of these responsibilities.

Recommendations

Council is recommended to:

1. Agree to bring the appointment of Stuart Green as an Independent Member and Vice Chair of the Audit Committee to an end with effect from 19 November 2026.

2. Authorise the Assistant Director of Governance to make the necessary administrative arrangements arising from the decision; and

3. Authorise the commencement of arrangements to recruit a replacement Independent Member of the Audit Committee.

Independent Member of Audit Committee

1 **Background**

1.1 At its meeting on 12 November 2025, Council appointed Stuart Green as the second Independent Member of the Audit Committee which included the role of Vice Chair of the Committee. His appointment runs until 30 April 2029; however, may be reviewed before that date.

2 **Current Position**

2.1 Attendance and participation are inherent requirements of the role. The Independent Member has been unable fulfil these requirements for over six consecutive months. The Council is aware of personal circumstances which have affected the Independent Members' ability to undertake their role on the Audit Committee. In the circumstances, it is considered appropriate to bring the appointment to an end, and a replacement Independent Member be appointed.

3 **Options/Alternatives**

3.1 Council may determine that the appointment should continue.

4 **Preferred Option**

4.1 Having regard to the importance of effective participation by Independent Members in supporting the work of the Audit Committee, the preferred option is to seek a replacement.

5 **Consultation**

5.1 Director of Finance, Monitoring Officer and Independent Chair of the Audit Committee.

6 **Financial Implications**

6.1 Independent Members of the Audit Committee receive an allowance under the Council's approved Members' Allowances arrangements.

7 **Legal Implications**

7.1 The report outlines that unfortunately Mr Green has not attended the required meetings that he was required to attend as per his terms of appointment. Meetings to discuss the reasons for non attendance were not attended and communications including email's and calls were not responded to. The independent role on the audit committee is an important role and if Mr Green is not able to complete his duties then the Council will have to look to re-appoint. Upon the Council successfully agreeing to terminate the appointment, the position will be declared vacant and the Council can begin the process of appointing. (Alex Bougatef - Director of Legal Services, Monitoring Officer.)

8. **Procurement Implications**

8.1 N/A

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

9.1 No

10 **Key Decision**

10.1 No.

11 **Key Decision Reference**

11.1 N/A

12 **Appendices & Background Papers**

12.1 Report to 12 November 2025 Council