

Audit Committee – 16th January, 2017

Independent Member to Audit Committee – Term of Office Expiry

Summary of report

To notify the Audit Committee that Mr A Green's terms of office is shortly due to expire, the options available for filling the vacancy (as well as the existing vacancy) and for the Audit Committee to agree a preferred approach.

Background papers

Previous reports to the Audit Committee and Council.

Recommendations

- (1) That Council be recommended to approve either option (a) or option (b) below: -
 - (a) That Mr A Green's term of office be extended commencing from the start of the 2017/18 Municipal Year, ending at the conclusion of the 2018/19 Municipal Year; or
 - (b) That Mr A Green's term of office not be extended; and
- (2) That, in either case, and dependent on the above, a recruitment exercise be initiated to fill either one or two vacant position(s) for Independent Member to the Audit Committee.
- (3) That the Committee nominate 3 Members to constitute an Interview Panel with a view to interviewing and recommending a new appointment(s) to the vacant position(s) of Independent Member to the Audit Committee.

Background

1. In February, 2011, the Audit Committee resolved that one independent member should be appointed to the committee and that the term of office would be for a period of two years.
2. In September, 2012, the Audit Committee resolved to increase the number of independent members from 1 to 3. This was approved by Council on the 24th September, 2012.
3. Independent Members do not receive a Member's allowance, although their travel and subsistence expenses will be paid on application. In addition, Independent Members are not affiliated to any political party.
4. Mr Green has been asked if he would wish to extend his term of office on the Committee for a further two years. Mr Green has indicated that he would wish to extend his term of office.

5. There is currently a further vacancy as there are only 2 out of the three vacancies filled at present.

Options

The following options are available to the Audit Committee in filling the pending vacancy of Independent Member:

1. The Audit Committee may chose to recommend to Council to approve an extension to Mr Green's term of office commencing from the start of the 2017/18 municipal year, ending at the conclusion of the 2018/19 municipal year; **Or**
2. That Mr Green's term of office not be extended.
3. That, in either case, and dependent on the above, a recruitment exercise be initiated to fill either one or two vacant position(s) for Independent Member to the Audit Committee. The Panel's remit would be to interview and recommend to the Audit Committee candidates to fill the vacant Independent Member positions. Any appointment(s) made would be subject to formal approval by Council.

There is currently no statutory requirement or limitations in relation to the time for which an independent member may serve on an Audit Committee.

Resource and legal considerations

Independent members are entitled to claim travel subsistence in performing their duties on the Audit Committee. Independent Members are also required to sign up to the same Members' Code of Conduct that Elected Members are.

Performance and risk management issues:

Suitably qualified and experienced independent members serving on Audit Committees can bring specialist knowledge and insight to the workings and deliberations of the Committee which, when partnered with elected members' knowledge of working practices and procedures, enhances the performance of the Committee.

Equality Implications:

Any appointment process would encourage applicants from a diversity of backgrounds to apply.

Consultation:

Consultation has taken place with officers from Legal and Democratic Services.

Author:

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Chief Finance Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James T. Walsh', with a stylized, cursive script.

DATE