

**Audit Committee – 12<sup>th</sup> April 2011**

**Appointment of an Independent Member to Audit Committee**

**Summary of report:**

To recommend to Council that Mr A Green be appointed as an Independent Member to the Audit Committee with effect from the start of the 2011/12 Municipal Year.

**Background papers:**

Reports to Audit Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2010 and 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2011.

**Recommendations:**

1. That Council be recommended to appoint Mr A Green as an Independent Member to the Audit Committee with effect from the start of the 2011/12 Municipal Year and with a two-year 'Term of Office'.



**James Walsh – Assistant Director Finance**

**15 March 2011**

**Background**

- 1.1 At the meetings of the Audit Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2010 and 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2011, the Committee resolved the following: -

That the Committee agrees:-

- (1) That one Independent Member should be appointed;
- (2) That their role should follow the remit set out in Appendix 2 to the report;
- (3) That their term of appointment should be for two years;
- (4) That the Independent Member should be entitled to travelling and subsistence expenses only;
- (5) that an Interview Panel be established and consist of 4 Elected Members from amongst the Audit Committee Membership in order to ensure political balance, with delegated authority to interview candidates for the position of Independent Member on Audit Committee.

- (6) That the Interview Panel recommend the Audit Committee a suitable candidate for Council to formally appoint to the position of Independent Member on Audit Committee.
- 1.2 Short-listing took place based on applicants' credentials and relevant experience / expertise.
- 1.3 The Interview Panel met on 22 February 2011 and interviewed the five short listed candidates for the position of Independent Member to the Audit Committee.
- 1.4 The Interview Panel unanimously resolved that Mr A Green be recommended to Council for formal appointment to the position of Independent Member to the Audit Committee, subject to Audit Committee's agreement.
- 1.5 Mr A Green is currently employed as Director of Corporate Governance & Trust Secretary at Sandwell Mental Health & Social Care NHS Foundation Trust. Following changes within the NHS, it is likely that the Council may contract with Sandwell Mental Health & Social Care NHS foundation Trust in the future. In order to ensure Mr A Green's independence at future meetings of the Audit Committee, Mr A Green would, as is required of all members under the members' code of conduct, be required to declare an interest and withdraw from any matters arising in which he holds an interest.
- 1.6 As the Council is the proper body with authority to make Independent Member Appointments to Committees, the Audit Committee must make and agree an appropriate recommendation to Council, which is suitably captured in the recommendation of this report.

## **2.0 Resource and legal considerations:**

- 2.1 The appointment of an Independent Member would incur eligible travel and subsistence expenses, which can be met from within existing budgets.

## **3.0 Performance and risk management issues:**

- 3.1 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.

## **4.0 Equality Implications:**

- 4.1 The appointment process as detailed above actively encouraged applicants from a diversity of backgrounds.

## **5.0 Consultation:**

- 5.1 Consultation has taken place with officers from Constitutional Services.

## **Authors:**

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