

**Audit Committee – 24 June 2013**

**Progress on Appointment of Independent Member to Audit Committee**

**Summary of report:**

To inform the Committee of the recommendation arising from the recent Audit Committee Independent Member Interview Panel.

**Recommendations:**

1. That the Committee notes that the Audit Committee Independent Member Interview Panel does not recommend that the candidate interviewed by them on 10 May 2013, be recommended for appointment to the position of Independent Member on the Audit Committee.
2. That the Committee endorses consideration of a further alternative recruitment campaign to seek to appoint to the 2 current independent member vacancies.



**James T Walsh**  
**Chief Finance Officer**  
**11 June 2013**

**Background**

- 1.1 At the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2012, (Minute No. 988/12 refers) the Committee resolved the following: -  
  
"That Council be recommended to agree an increase in the number of Independent Members (non-voting) on Audit Committee, up to a maximum of three, and that the Constitution be amended accordingly."
- 1.2 An advert was publicised in the local press on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2013, seeking candidates to apply for the position of Independent Member on the Audit Committee. Of the three people who requested and application form, only one candidate returned the form. This applicant met the prescribed criteria and was invited to be interviewed.
- 1.3 The Interview Panel met on 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2013 and interviewed the candidate.

- 1.4 After careful consideration, the Interview Panel resolved to recommend to the Committee that the candidate not be recommended for appointment to the position of Independent Member on the Audit Committee.
- 1.5 Council is the proper body with authority to make Independent Member Appointments to Committees. However, in this case the candidate is not recommended for appointment.
- 1.6 The Committee are asked to endorse consideration of a further alternative recruitment campaign to seek to appoint to the 2 current independent member vacancies.

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

- 2.1 A further alternative recruitment campaign would incur costs which can be met from within existing budgets. 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 A further alternative recruitment process would, in line with equal opportunities, actively encouraged applicants from a diversity of backgrounds.

## **5.0 Consultation:**

- 5.1 Officers from Internal Audit and Democratic Services were consulted.

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