

Audit Committee – 16th April, 2018

Independent Member to Audit Committee – Establishment of Interview Panel

1. Summary of report

- 1.1 To request the Audit Committee to establish an Interview Panel from amongst its membership to interview candidates for the vacant Independent Member positions on the Audit Committee and to make a recommendation to Council, should a suitable candidate(s) be identified.

2. Background papers

- 2.1 Previous reports to the Audit Committee and Council.

3. Recommendations

- (1) That Audit Committee nominate three Councillors from amongst the Committee Membership to establish an Interview Panel and to appoint a Chair of said Panel.
- (2) That authority be delegated for the Interview Panel to make a recommendation to Council on the appointment of any suitable candidate(s) to the vacant positions of Independent Member on the Audit Committee.
- (3) That a date / time be agreed for the interview Panel to meet before the end of the current Municipal Year to interview suitable candidates who apply for the vacant positions.

4. Background

- 4.1 Independent Member vacancies have existed on the Audit Committee since the beginning of the 2016/17 Municipal Year.
- 4.2 There are three Independent Member positions allowed on the Audit Committee, only one of which is currently filled. An Independent Member's Term of Office runs for a period of two years and must be reassessed at the end of each term.
- 4.3 Members of the Committee have expressed their preference for the vacancies to be filled as soon as possible and for the Chair of the Audit Committee to be from amongst the serving Independent Members.
- 4.4 In view of the above, Members are requested to nominate three Members to constitute an Interview Panel so that candidates may be interviewed and assessed for suitability prior to Council being recommended to formally appoint to the vacant positions.

- 4.5 Assuming that Members would like any successful appointment(s) to commence their Term of Office from the start of the 2018/19 Municipal Year, and in view of the fact that this is the last meeting in the current Municipal Year, the Committee would also be required to delegate Authority for the Interview Panel to make a recommendation(s) directly to Council in regard to any appointment(s) to this Committee.

5. Resource and legal considerations

- 5.1 Independent members are entitled to claim travel subsistence in performing their duties on the Audit Committee, which will be met from within exiting budgets. Independent Members are also required to sign up to the same Members' Code of Conduct that Elected Members are.

6. Performance and risk management issues:

- 6.1 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.

7. Equality Implications:

- 7.1 Applicants from a diversity of backgrounds will be welcomed to apply.

8. Consultation:

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

Author:

Fred Hancock
Democratic Services Officer

James T Walsh
Executive Director – Resources & Transformation



6th April 2018