Audit Committee - 25 February 2013

Term of office extension independent lay member to Audit Committee

Summary of report;

A recommendation to Council that Mr A Green's (independent lay member to the Audit Committee) term of office be extended for a further two year term, with effect from the start of the 2013/14 Municipal Year.

Background papers:

Reports to Audit Committee 7 December 2010, 3 February 2011, and 12 April 2011. 12 June, 3 September 2012. Report to Council 24 September 2012.

Recommendations:

1. That Council be recommended to extend the term of office for Mr A Green, independent lay member to the audit committee, for a period of two years, from the start of the 2013/14 Municipal Year.

James T Walsh – Chief Finance officer

21 January 2013

Background

1. In February 2011, the audit committee resolved that one independent member should be appointed to the committee. An interview panel was set up consisting of 4 elected members from amongst the audit committee membership to ensure political balance, with delegated authority to interview candidates for the position.
2. The interview panel unanimously resolved that Mr Green be recommended to Council for formal appointment to the position.

3. Independent members do not receive a member's allowance, although their travel and subsistence expenses will be paid on application. They are not affiliated to any political party.
4. Mr Green in 2011/12 Municipal Year attended all of the audit committee meetings and in the current year has attended 83.33% of the meetings. During these two years Mr Green has been an active member of the audit committee contributing regularly to the debate.
5. Mr Green has expressed a willingness to undertake a further term.
6. On the 3 September the audit committee resolved to increase the number of independent members to 3. This was approved by council on the 24 September 2012.
7. A recruitment process will be undertaken. The intention is for the length of terms of the 3 positions to be staggered as this may assist in maintaining a continuity of independent lay members.
8. In order for that continuity to be maintained it is recommended that Mr Green's term be extended for a further 2 years.

Resource and legal considerations

None directly related to this report.

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:

James T Walsh
Chief Finance Officer