

**Audit Committee 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2015**

**Independent Member to Audit Committee: Mr Andrew Green's Term of Office Expiry**

**Summary of report**

To notify the Audit Committee that one of the three Independent Member's (Mr Andrew Green), terms of office is shortly due to expire, the options available for filling the vacancy and for Audit Committee to agree a preferred approach.

**Background papers**

Reports to Audit Committee 7 December 2010, 3 February 2011, and 12 April 2011. 12 June, 3 September 2012, 25 February 2013. Report to Council 24 September 2012 and 8 April 2013.

**Recommendations**

1. That Council be recommended to approve an extension to Mr Green's term of office commencing from the start of the 2015/16 municipal year, ending at the conclusion of the 2016/17 municipal year; **or**
2. That Mr Green's term of office not be extended and a recruitment exercise be initiated for the soon to be vacancy of Independent Member on the Audit Committee.

**Background**

1. In February 2011, the Audit Committee resolved that one independent member should be appointed to the committee. Following a recruitment process, the Audit Committee resolved that Mr Green be recommended to Council for formal appointment to the position of independent member. This decision was approved by Council and Mr Green served an initial term of 2 years expiring in the 2012/13 municipal year.
2. On the 3 September 2012, the Audit Committee resolved to increase the number of independent members from 1 to 3. This was approved by Council on the 24 September 2012.
3. Following a recruitment exercise, Mr Fred Bell, the current serving Chair of the Audit Committee, and Ms Pamela Hepburn were appointed to the remaining 2 independent member vacancies with their 2 year term of office commencing at the start of the 2014/15 municipal year.
4. On 25 February 2013, prior to Mr Green's initial term of appointment expiring, Audit Committee agreed that Mr Green should serve a further 2 years term of office, expiring at the end of the 2014/15 municipal year. This decision was approved by Council on 8 April 2013.

5. 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.

## **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 2015/16 municipal year, ending at the conclusion of the 2016/17 municipal year. Mr Green has expressed a willingness to undertake a further term.
2. That Mr Green's term of office not be extended and a recruitment exercise be initiated.

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

## **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.

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11<sup>th</sup> February, 2015