

REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR RESOURCES

Audit Committee – Independent Member Appointments

Reason for this Report

1. To seek approval for the appointment of new Independent Members of the Audit Committee.

Background

2. Under the Local Government Measure 2011 it became a requirement for all Councils to establish an Audit Committee and appoint at least one independent person to that Committee.
3. This Council's Audit Committee was established in May 2012 with four Independent Members from the previous Audit Panel to ensure continuity of experience and expertise. These Independent Members were duly appointed at Annual Council on 17 May 2012. The Independent Members were appointed for two administrative terms unless they indicated that they wished to stand down for any reason.
4. The current composition of the Audit Committee, as approved at Annual Council in May 2016, consists of eight Councillors and four Independent Members. The proportion of Independent Members is one third of the Committee Members, which is the maximum permitted under the Measure. Councillors are appointed to the Committee each year at Council in May.
5. Audit Committee provides a report on its activities, which it presents to Council annually.

Issues

6. The appointment of Independent Members of the Audit Committee is the responsibility of Council.
7. In accordance with the Guidance on the Measure, the Council recruits Independent Members of the Audit Committee following a public recruitment exercise and delegates authority to the Corporate Director, Resources, to make the necessary arrangements and appointments.

8. A recruitment exercise was carried out from August to October 2016 concluding with the Audit Committee Appointment Panel made up of the Chair of the Committee; an Independent Member and a Councillor meeting on 7 November 2016 to interview candidates that met the necessary requirements of the role.

Legal Implications

9. The relevant legal provisions are set out in the body of the report.

Financial Implications

10. The cost of the appointments process (e.g. the publication of public advertisements) was met from within existing resources. The costs of remuneration of Independent Members of the Audit Committee under the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales guidance and the Council's agreed Schedule of remuneration will be met from the existing budget.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Council is request to:

- (1) approve the appointment of Mr David Price to fill the current vacancy for an Independent Member of the Audit Committee with effect from 25 November 2016;
- (2) approve the appointment of Mr Gavin McArthur to fill a second vacancy that will arise following the next meeting of the Committee to replace Prof, Maurice Pendlebury who has indicated that he wishes to stand down as an Independent Member. This vacancy will be filled from 1 December 2016;
- (3) thank Prof. Pendlebury for his significant contributions to the work of the Audit Committee and previous Audit Panel and wish him all the very best for the future.

CHRISTINE SALTER
Corporate Director Resources
18 November 2016

Background papers

Role Description and Person Specification September 2016