

Report to:	COUNCIL
Relevant Officer:	Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council
Date of Meeting:	22 June 2022

AUDIT COMMITTEE INDEPENDENT CO-OPTED MEMBER

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the appointment to the vacancy of co-opted Independent Member on the Audit Committee.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 That the Council expresses its thanks to Ms Gill Brown for her service as Independent Audit Committee member.

2.2 The Chair of the Audit Committee will report on the recommended candidate to the meeting, to be appointed for a three year term of office.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To fill the vacancy on the position within the Council.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 To not make an appointment. However this would be contrary to previous decisions of the Council to have two independent co-opted members of the Audit Committee. The 2022 CIPFA position on Audit Committees now also recommends having two independent co-opted members.

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The recommendations in this report meet all of the Council's priorities.

6.0 Background information

- 6.1 In 2017 Council agreed the appointment of an appropriately qualified independent co-opted member, who would serve on the Audit Committee with non-voting rights. This position was recommended as part of the Council's Annual Governance Statement at the time and is intended to strengthen the assurance and challenge role for that committee.
- 6.2 In November 2020, the Council appointed two Independent Audit Committee Members, Gill Brown and Stuart Green. The co-opted member vacancy has arisen as Ms Gill Brown has recently stood down from the post.
- 6.3 At the Council meeting on 20 July 2020, the Monitoring Officer was authorised to advertise for the position of co-opted Independent Member of the Audit Committee using the same recruitment criteria as previously applied, if a vacancy arose. An advert was therefore placed to fill this vacancy and interviews have been scheduled.
- 6.4 The successful applicant would ideally possess expertise and knowledge in audit/ finance and have an understanding on how local government operated.
- 6.5 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

- 7.1 None.

8.0 Financial considerations:

- 8.1 The Members Allowances Scheme provides for special responsibility allowance for Independent co-opted members of the Audit Committee.

9.0 Legal considerations:

- 9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

- 10.1 Having an independent co-optee on the Audit Committee is considered good practice and helps to strengthen the assurance and challenge to the committee.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

- 11.1 There are no equalities considerations to this report.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 None.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 In line with the decision of Council in July 2020, the Monitoring Officer will liaise with the Group Leaders on the preferred appointment, prior to the meeting of Council.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.