

Report to:	COUNCIL
Date of Meeting	01 February 2023

MAYOR ELECT AND AUDIT COMMITTEE INDEPENDENT CO-OPTED MEMBER

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the process for appointing the Mayor Elect for the Mayoral Year 2023 / 2024 and the appointment of a co-opted independent member to the vacant position on the Audit Committee.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To delegate to the Director of Governance and Partnerships, after consultation with the Group Leaders appointed after 04 May, the naming of a Mayor Elect for the Mayoral year 2023 / 2024 based on the current length of service criteria, to allow arrangements to then be made for the Annual Meeting on 24 May 2023.
- 2.2 To delegate to the Director of Governance and Partnerships the appointment of a Co-opted Independent Member to the vacant position on the Audit Committee, following consultation with the Group Leaders.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 The Council at its first meeting in the New Year, usually identifies one of its members to be appointed 'Mayor Elect' to assist in planning for the Mayoral year ahead and in particular the Annual Meeting in May 2023.
- 3.2 There is also a vacancy for a Co-opted Independent Member to the Audit Committee. Rather than wait until the Annual Meeting for this to be filled, Council is also asked to delegate the final decision on this to the Director of Governance and Partnerships.

4.0 Background Information

- 4.1 At the first Council meeting each calendar year, the Mayor Elect is usually identified based on length of service and those councillors who have not served as Mayor before. As it is election year and to follow the process used in 2019, Council is asked to not agree a Mayor Elect at this meeting and to delegate the decision to the Director of Governance and Partnerships. If this is agreed then consultation will take place with those at the top of the seniority list.

- 4.2 The appointment of a Mayor Elect will allow arrangements to then be made for the Annual Meeting on 24 May 2023. If this is agreeable before a final decision is made, consultation will also take place with the Group Leaders appointed at that time on a preferred candidate.
- 4.3 Due to the pre-election period and to avoid delay, Council is also asked to delegate to the Director of Governance and Partnerships the appointment of a Co-opted Independent Member to the vacant position on the Audit Committee again following consultation with the Group Leaders.
- 4.4 The position will be advertised and the interviews will be undertaken by the Director of Governance and Partnerships, the Chair of the Audit Committee and the Head of Internal Audit. Should approval be given for the delegation then consultation will also take place with the Group Leaders and details of the appointment to be reported to the Annual meeting.

List of Appendices:

None.

5.0 Legal considerations:

5.1 None.

6.0 Equalities Considerations:

6.1 None.

7.0 Financial considerations:

7.1 The Members Allowances Scheme provides for special responsibility allowances for the Mayor and Independent co-opted members of the Audit Committee.

8.0 Risk management considerations:

8.1 Delegating the decisions will minimise the time for these decisions to be enacted and with regard to the Mayor Elect will allow consultation to take place in advance but a final decision to be taken after the elections. Having an independent co-optee on the Audit Committee is considered good practice and helps to strengthen the assurance and challenge to the committee.

9.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

10.1 With regard to the appointment of a Mayor Elect, consultation will take place with those at the top of the seniority list and when a person is identified who wishes to do the role then with the Group Leaders. It is also envisaged that consultation with the Group Leaders will take place in respect of the preferred person for the position of a co-opted independent member for the Audit Committee.

11.0 Background papers:

11.1 None.