

Report of the General Purposes Committee held on 21 September 2022

Present: Councillor David Boothroyd (Chair), Aicha Less, Matt Noble and Paul Swaddle

1. **Appointment of Independent Person to the Audit and Performance Committee**
 - (a) We have considered a report seeking approval to appoint an independent person to the Audit and Performance Committee
 - (b) We noted that the Audit and Performance Committee is a key source of assurance about the organisation's arrangements for managing risk, maintaining an effective control environment, and reporting on financial and non-financial performance. An independent member with appropriate skills and experience will supplement those of the elected members and improve the effectiveness of the Committee. In addition, in recent months the Government has set out its intention to make independent audit members compulsory across Local Government.
 - (c) Currently, the Council's Scheme of Members' Allowances includes a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) of £500 for Independent Members. Having regard to the role we considered it appropriate for the Audit and Performance Committee Independent Member to receive an SRA of £2,500 which better reflects the range of duties they will be expected to carry out in providing assistance to the work of the of the Committee.

Recommendation:

That Full Council:

- 1) Approve the appointment of an independent person to sit on the Audit and Performance Committee for a period of four years;
- 2) Agrees to delegate to the Director of Law, in consultation with the Chair of the Audit and Performance Committee/General Purposes Committee, authority to finalise the role description, skills, competencies and person specification attached as Appendix A.
- 3) Approve that the recruitment of the Independent Member be led by a panel consisting of the Chair of the Audit and Performance Committee, the Chair of the General Purposes Committee and a nominated Opposition Group member. The panel will be advised by the Director of Law, Director of Finance and Head of Governance and Councillor Liaison.
- 4) Amend the Members' Allowances Scheme to provide a remuneration of £2,500 per annum to the Audit and Performance Committee Independent Member.

David Boothroyd, Chair

Background Papers

Appendix 1 - Report to General Purposes Committee (08.09.22).