



## **Audit Committee**

**26 November 2024**

### **Appointment to the post of Independent Member for the Audit Committee**

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#### Summary

This report updates the Committee on the recruitment process undertaken to appoint an Independent Member to the Audit Committee.

#### 1. Recommendation

- 1.1. The Committee is asked to approve the recommendation of the panel to appoint Anumesh Chandra to the post of Independent Member of the Audit Committee for a period of four years from 27 November 2024 – 26 November 2028, subject to a successful review by both parties after 12 months.
- 1.2. The Committee is asked to note that officers will provide a training programme to support the appointment of the Independent Member.

#### 2. Budget and Policy Framework

- 2.1. The Audit Committee established this panel to undertake the recruitment process and make a recommendation to the Audit Committee for approval of the proposed candidate.

#### 3. Background

- 3.1. The Audit Committee received a report regarding the appointment of an Independent Member on 29 November 2023 and recommended to Council an Independent Member be appointed to serve on the Committee on a fully non-voting basis (minute no. 398/2003-24 refers).
- 3.2. On 24 January 2024, Full Council approved the provision for an Independent Member to be appointed by the Audit Committee on a fully non-voting basis and for a term not exceeding 4 years (renewable once) (minute no. 570/2023-24 refers).
- 3.3. The Audit Committee established an interview panel comprising of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Opposition Spokesperson with support from the Chief Operating Officer and Assistant Director, Legal and Governance for the purpose of (a) shortlisting and interviewing applicants for

the role of Independent Member and (b) to make a recommendation to the Audit Committee for approval of the proposed candidate (minute no. 717(2)/2023-2024 refers)

- 3.4. The post of Independent Member for the Audit Committee was initially advertised on Wednesday 3 July until Tuesday 23 July 2024. The interview panel reviewed four applications but were unable to produce a shortlist of candidates to progress to the interview stage.
  - 3.5. The post was readvertised with some minor amendments to the job profile from Friday 13 September until Monday 30 September. Seven candidates applied and four were shortlisted for interview.
  - 3.6. The Panel, supported by the Chief Operating Officer, Assistant Director Legal and Governance and the Democratic Services Officer, undertook interviews on 5 November 2024 at Gun Wharf.
4. Recommendation of the interview panel
- 4.1. It is the recommendation of the panel that Anumesh Chandra be appointed to the post of Independent Member of the Audit Committee for a period not exceeding four years, subject to a successful a review by both parties after 12 months.
  - 4.2. A training programme for the Independent Member will be developed by the Chief Operating Officer in conjunction with Democratic Services Officers. The Independent Member will be invited to the next meeting of the Audit Committee scheduled to take place on 28 January 2025.

5. Risk Management

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Action to avoid or mitigate risk</b>	<b>Risk rating</b>
This is a new post.		A training programme will be put in place supported by senior officers to support the development of the Independent Member.	DIV

<i>Likelihood</i>	<i>Impact</i>
A Very likely	I Catastrophic
B Likely	II Major
C Unlikely	III Moderate
D Rare	IV Minor

## 6. Financial and legal implications

6.1. There is budgetary provision for this post, specifically there is an allowance of £1,210 per annum is included in the Members' Allowances scheme

## 7. Legal implications

7.1. The Council's ability to co-opt members onto an Audit Committee derives from the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The latter Act establishes that members of committees appointed under the 1972 Act and who are not elected members of the Council do not generally have voting rights, with some exceptions such as Advisory Committees or Church and parent governor members of overview and scrutiny in respect of education matters.

### Lead officer contact

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### Appendices

None

### Background papers

[National Audit Office – Local Authority Governance](#)

[Independent Review into the Oversight of Local Audit and the Transparency of Local Authority Financial Reporting](#)