

PAPER C

Somerset Council

Full Council

27 September 2023



Appointment of Independent Member of the Audit Committee

Lead Member: Councillor Mike Hewitson - Chair Audit Committee

Local Member(s) and Division: N/A

Lead Officers: Jason Vaughan – Executive Director of Resources & Corporate Service
(Section 151 Officer)

Author: Jason Vaughan

Contact Details: democrticservices@somerset.gov.uk

1. Summary

1.1 This report sets out the recommendation from the Audit Committee to Council following the recruitment process for independent members of the Audit Committee which concluded on 22 September 2023.

2. Recommendation

2.1 The Council is recommended approve the appointment of Lindy Jasen Van Vuuren as an independent member of the Audit Committee for a term of 3 years and note the previously approved allowance £1000 per annum.

3. Background

3.1 The latest CIPFA Guidance on Audit Committees, recommends that best practice is that there should be 2 independent members on the Audit Committee. Council has previously approved the appointment of up to 2 independent members with an allowance of £1,000 per annum plus reasonable travel expenses for a 3-year term.

3.2 Following a recruitment exercise we received 5 applications, shortlisted and interviewed 2 candidates on 22 September 2023. The interview panel of Cllr Mike Hewitson, Cllr Andy Sully and Jason Vaughan concluded that Lindy Jasen Van Vuuren was the standout candidate and clearly exceeded our requirements. The

PAPER C

other candidate didn't meet the required level and we will therefore look to recruit another independent member at a later stage to fill any knowledge gaps that may exist.