

Report of the Monitoring Officer – Member Development Strategy & Proposed Appointment of Independent Member of the Audit Committee

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1. Summary

1.1 This report sets out proposals for the Council to consider regarding:

- Approval to the proposed Member Development Strategy 2021-2025
- Proposed appointment of an independent co-opted member of the Audit Committee (without voting rights)

1.2 The proposals relating to the Member Development Strategy are required due to the expiry of the current strategy and as part of preparations for any elections to the Council and / or local government reorganisation work. The strategy has been developed in conjunction with a cross party steering group of elected members in the Member Development Panel. The proposals are set out in Annex A to this report and the detailed strategy is set out in Appendix A to that Annex.

1.3 The proposals for the appointment of an independent co-opted member to the Audit Committee follow best practice of other councils and recommendation as part of the 'Redmond Review'. These proposals have been endorsed by the Audit Committee at its meeting in January 2021. The proposals are set out in Annex B to this report.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Member Development Strategy 2021-2025

Following reference to Annex A to this report, that the Council agrees the Member Development Strategy 2021-25 (as set out in Appendix A to Annex A).

2.2 Independent co-opted member of the Audit Committee

Following reference to Annex B to this report, that the Council agrees:

- 1. the recruitment and appointment of an independent person to be a non-voting co-opted member of the Audit Committee for a period of two years.**

- 2. that the Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer be given delegated authority to finalise a role description, skills and competencies and person specification for the independent person, advertise this role, complete interviews and agree the appointment of the successful candidate to the Audit Committee.**
- 3. that the Monitoring Officer is authorised to amend the Audit Committee functions and membership within the Council's Constitution to reflect the inclusion of an independent non-voting member of the Committee.**

3. Options considered and consultation undertaken

- 3.1.** Options considered and details of consultation undertaken in respect of the recommendations set out above are set out in the reports and appendices within Annex A and Annex B.

4. Implications

- 4.1** Financial, legal, Human Resources, equalities, human rights and risk implications in respect of the recommendations set out in this report are detailed within Annex A and B.

There are no direct equalities implications arising from any of the proposals in this report. There are also no direct financial, sustainability or community safety implications.

5. Background papers

- 5.1** Councils Constitution
See Annex A and Annex B