

County Council

17 December 2024

Appointment of Independent Members to Audit and Standards Committee

Recommendations

That Council

1. Approves the appointment of Martyn Burke and Sandip Shergill as Independent Members of the Audit and Standards Committee
2. Appoints Martyn Burke as the Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Following a successful recruitment campaign and interview process, Martyn Burke and Sandip Shergill have been identified as successful candidates for appointment to the roles of Independent Member of the Audit and Standards Committee.
- 1.2 Following the recent retirement of the existing Chair, Mr Burke is further recommended to be appointed as Chair of Audit and Standards Committee.
- 1.3 The recruitment process comprised an application stage via the Council's recruitment portal and an interview by members of the Audit and Standards Committee.
- 1.4 These appointments require ratification by Council in accordance with the Constitution.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 The posts attract allowances which are provided for within the Members' Allowances Scheme.

3. Environmental Implications

- 3.1 None.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 The Responsibilities of the Audit and Standards Committee are contained within Part 2(7) of the Constitution, and the Composition and Functions are set out in the Articles to the Constitution.
- 4.2 The Committee is composed of six councillors and up to four other persons (the independent members) who are not councillors or officers of the Council or any other body proscribed by regulations. It has been the Council's practice to appoint two independent members to the Audit and Standards Committee, one of whom, Mr John Bridgeman (the Independent Chair) recently retired. Mr Robert Zara is continuing in his role as Independent Member.
- 4.3 The appointment of Martyn Burke and Sandip Shergill will bring the complement of Independent Members to three, strengthening the overall membership and providing additional resilience.
- 4.4 Martyn Burke is a qualified accountant and has previously held a number of senior roles in the private sector. He has considerable experience of chairing Audit & Risk Assurance Committees for other bodies.
- 4.5 Sandip Shergill is also a qualified accountant who has experience in audit and risk roles in the private and utilities sectors.
- 4.6 One of the Independent Members is required to Chair the Audit and Standards Committee. Due to the knowledge and experience demonstrated in his application and at interview, it is recommended that Martyn Burke be appointed as Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee.

5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 5.1 The appointments will take effect from approval of Council to the appointment to enable Mr Burke and Mrs Shergill to receive induction and training in advance of the next meeting of Audit and Standards Committee in March 2025.

Appendices

None.

Background Papers

None.

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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s): N/A – Countywide Report

Other members: Councillors Isobel Seccombe, Sarah Feeney, Jerry Roodhouse, Jonathan Chilvers, Adrian Warwick, Parminder Singh Birdi, Sarah Boad, and Will Roberts