

Appendices: 0



# COUNCIL

4<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Agenda Status: Public

Directorate: Chief Executive

Report Title	Independent Chair of the Audit Committee
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## 1. Purpose

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- 1.1 That Council notes that Mr Ian Orrell, having been selected as the successful candidate, be appointed as the Independent Chair of the Audit Committee.

## 2. Recommendations

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- 2.1 That Council notes the appointment of Mr Ian Orrell as the Independent Chair of the Audit Committee.

## 3. Issues and Choices

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### 3.1 Report Background

- 3.1.1 The Audit Committee, at its meeting on 3 July 2017, resolved:

*“That it be recommended to Full Council that the composition of the Audit Committee is altered to provide that the Chair of Audit Committee would be an independent, non-voting, co-opted member and would be in addition to seven elected Members, and that the necessary amendments be made to the Council’s Constitution.”*

- 3.1.2 At a subsequent meeting of Council on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017, Council approved that the composition of the Audit Committee be altered to provide that the Chair of the Audit Committee well be an independent, non-voting, co-opted member and would be in addition to seven elected Members.

- 3.1.3 It was also agreed that authority be delegated to the Borough Secretary & Monitoring Officer the powers needed to determine a recruitment process in consultation with Members, necessary to enable it to co-opt an independent person onto the Audit Committee.

- 3.1.4 The recruitment process commenced in January 2018 and a staff panel long-listed potential candidates and recommended those to the Member short-listing panel.
- 3.1.5 The Member panel consisted of the Leader of the Council, the Deputy, the Leaders of both opposition Groups and the outgoing Chair of Audit Committee who were advised during the recruitment and selection process by the Monitoring Officer and the Interim Chief Finance Officer (S151)
- 3.1.6 At the panel meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018, the panel agreed to appoint Mr Ian Orrell. There had been two candidates shortlisted who were of very high quality and considered appointable, but on balance it was agreed by the Panel that Mr Orrell be appointed to the position.
- 3.1.7 The Committee will therefore be comprised of an Independent Chair and seven other Councillor members who were nominated to the Committee at the Annual Council meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018.
- 3.1.8 The Council's Independent Remuneration Panel have been asked to consider the payment and amount of an allowance for a co-opted Chair of Audit Committee, and made recommendations, which were agreed by full Council at its meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017.
- 3.1.9 The appointment of Independent Chair of Audit Committee will be on a fixed term basis until the Annual Council meeting of Northampton Borough Council on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

#### **4. Implications (including financial implications)**

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##### **4.1 Policy**

- 4.1.1 The report does not have any policy implications.

##### **4.2 Resources and Risk**

- 4.2.1 The previous reports submitted to, and agreed by Council, outlined the additional resources recommended by the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel.

##### **4.3 Legal**

- 4.3.1 The Audit Committee is an ordinary committee of the Council. As such, the requirement in section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to maintain political balance on the Committee applies. The number of elected members on the Committee remains the same and political balance will therefore not be affected by the addition of an independent Chair who will be a co-opted, non-voting independent member of the Committee.

##### **4.4 Equality**

- 4.4.1 There are no equality and health implications arising directly from this report.

##### **4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)**

- 4.5.1 The Audit Committee was consulted at its meeting on 3 July 2017 regarding its recommendation in relation to an Independent Chair of the Audit Committee.

## **4.6 Other Implications**

4.6.1 None specifically.

## **5. Background Papers**

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None

**Francis Fernandes**  
**Borough Secretary and Monitoring Officer**