



Report to Council

Report of: Chief Executive

Date: 4 September 2013

Subject: Audit Committee Independent Members – Term Of Office

Author of Report: Dave Ross – Democratic Services
0114 273 5033

Summary:

This report provides details of a recommendation from the Audit Committee to increase the maximum term for a co-opted non-voting independent member on the Audit Committee from four to five years.

Recommendation:

That the Council considers the recommendation from the meeting of the Audit Committee on 9 July 2013 that:-

“the maximum term for the appointment of the co-opted members of the Audit Committee is increased to five years to allow for flexibility in the recruitment process”

Background Papers:

None

Category of Report: OPEN

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial implications
NO
Legal implications
No
Equality of Opportunity implications
NO
Tackling Health Inequalities implications
N/A
Human rights implications
N/A
Environmental and Sustainability implications
N/A
Economic impact
N/A
Community safety implications
N/A
Human resources implications
N/A
Property implications
N/A
Area(s) affected
None
Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Leader
Cllr Bryan Lodge
Relevant Scrutiny Committee if decision called in
Not applicable
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?
Yes
Press release
NO

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides details of the recommendation from the Audit Committee to increase the maximum term for a co-opted non-voting independent member on the Audit Committee from four to five years.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council Meeting on 5 May 2010 approved the appointment to the Audit Committee of 2 non-voting co-opted members with financial, business, voluntary or community sector experience for a minimum of 2 years and maximum of 4 years.
- 2.2 The Committee was given delegated authority to agree the recruitment and selection process for the co-opted members. Beryl Seaman and Rick Plews were appointed in May 2011 for 4 years. Beryl Seaman has recently indicated that she will be standing down at the end of this year.

3. Proposal from the Audit Committee

- 3.1 At its meeting on 9 July 2013, the Audit Committee considered a report of the Director of Legal and Governance outlining the recruitment process for filling the vacancy that will arise for a co-opted non-voting independent member of the Committee.
- 3.2 Currently both the co-opted members have 4 year terms to May 2015. The Committee agreed that, rather than both terms ending at the same time and to ensure a degree of continuity, the terms should end in 2015 and 2017. The advertisement for the vacancy would indicate a term from January 2014 to May 2017.
- 3.3 Also to allow flexibility in filling any future vacancies, it was recommended that the maximum term of the appointments is increased to five years but that a four year term would be the norm. This would be of assistance where a member retired during their last year.
- 3.4 Arising from consideration of the report, it was:-
- “Resolved: That the Committee:-
- (a) approves the process and timetable set out in the report for the filling of Beryl Seaman’s vacancy for a non-voting co-opted independent member of the Committee from January 2014 to May 2017; and
 - (b) recommends to Council that the maximum term for the appointment of the co-opted members of the Audit Committee is increased to five years to allow for flexibility in the recruitment process.”

4. **Legal Implications**

4.1 There are no legal implications.

5. **Financial Implications**

5.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. The co-optees are entitled to receive the Co-optees' Allowance payable under the Members' Allowances Scheme and this is currently £707.98 per annum.

6. **Recommendation**

6.1 That the Council considers the recommendation from the meeting of the Audit Committee on 9 July 2013 that:-

“the maximum term for the appointment of the co-opted members of the Audit Committee is increased to five years to allow for flexibility in the recruitment process”

Chief Executive