

Report to the Council

Report of: Audit and Government Committee

Date: 12 September 2019

Subject: Appointment of Co-Opted Member

RECOMMENDING:

(1) That a Panel of four Councillors be appointed, including the Chairman of Audit & Governance, with delegated authority to undertake the interviews following public advertisement and to appoint the preferred candidate for the vacant Co-Opted Member position on the Audit & Governance Committee;

(2) That pro rata rules not be applied and that nominations be sought from the remaining Group Leaders to serve on the Panel with the Chairman of Audit & Governance;

(3) That, following nominations from the Group Leaders, the following 4 Councillors be appointed to the Interview and Selection Panel:

(a) Councillor J Knapman – Conservative group;

(b) Councillor R Jennings – Loughton Residents Association group;

(c) Councillor [to be advised] – Green Party group; and

(d) Councillor [to be advised] - Liberal Democrats group;

(4) That Ms. N Nanayakkara, the other co-opted member on the Audit & Governance Committee, also be invited to attend the interviews in an advisory, non-voting capacity.

1. The Audit & Governance Committee has two co-opted members who serve three-year terms on the Committee. After their first term has expired, they can be appointed again if they wish for a second term unopposed; if they wish to serve further terms after this then they must be subject to a competitive selection process.

2. One of the current co-opted members, Mr. Tony Jarvis, is coming to the end of his second term with his last meeting currently due to be on 12 September 2019. Mr. Jarvis has indicated that he wishes to serve for a further three years at least but, as he has already served two terms on the Committee, there must be a competitive selection process undertaken on this occasion.

3. In November 2014, the Committee agreed procedures to recruit a Co-Opted Member, which complied with Article 11 of the Council's Constitution relating to the Audit and Governance Committee. Given the success of that recruitment exercise, it is recommended that the same principles and procedures be applied on this occasion as well.

4. It is suggested that a Panel of four Councillors be appointed, including the Chairman of Audit & Governance, with delegated authority to undertake the interviews and to appoint the preferred candidate for the vacant Co-Opted Member position on the Audit & Governance Committee. The usual pro rata rules should not be applied and that nominations be sought from the remaining Group Leaders to serve on the Panel with the Chairman of Audit & Governance.

5. The Chairman of the Audit & Governance Committee for the next municipal year will be appointed on 12 September 2019. Therefore nominations have been sought from the Group Leaders to serve on the Panel:

- (a) Councillor J Knapman – Conservative group;
- (b) Councillor R Jennings – Loughton Residents Association;
- (c) Councillor [to be advised] – Liberal Democrats; and
- (d) Councillor [to be advised] – Green Party.

6. The second Co-Opted Member on the Audit & Governance Committee, Ms. N Nanayakkara, has indicated that she has extensive work commitments in October and could not guarantee her availability for the Interview Panel. In the circumstances, it seems sensible to appoint Ms. Nanayakkara as an advisory, non-voting member of the Interview Panel so that she can attend and assist with the process if she is available.

7. Officer support to the Panel would be provided by the Chief Internal Auditor, and other Officers as deemed appropriate.

8. We recommend as set out at the commencement of this report.