

By: Zena Cooke, Corporate Director Finance
Ben Watts, General Counsel

To: Governance and Audit Committee – 22 July 2021

Subject: **EXTENSION OF APPOINTMENT OF THE
INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF THE GOVERNANCE
AND AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report is asking to agree an extension to the appointment of the independent member to this Committee for a further 2-year period.

Recommendation: FOR DECISION

Introduction

1. At the January 2019 meeting of this Committee the 'in principle' decision to appoint an independent member to this Committee for a trial period of 2 years subject to further work on the appointment process and firming up the person specification was agreed.
2. As a reminder in 2018 CIPFA updated its Position Statement on Audit Committees and as a matter of good practice recommended that authorities consider the appointment of an independent member. The advantages of having an independent member on the Committee are:
 - a) Greater levels of apolitical independence
 - b) Bridging certain skills gaps and expertise

Appointment of Independent Member

3. Following on from the meeting the person specification for the role was amended to take account of feedback from Members and changes were made to the Terms of Reference and Constitution of the Committee.
4. A recruitment exercise was conducted successfully and the Independent Member started his two-year tenure with the January 2020 meeting of this Committee.
5. The Independent Member has played an important role in the Committee and has provided independent scrutiny and challenge, attending all Committee meetings and training events.
6. Following the recent election, the Committee now has a number of new Members, including the Chairman, so the extension of the appointment of the current Independent Member will provide some continuity of knowledge, skill and experience.
7. It is therefore proposed that the tenure of the current Independent Member be extended for a further two years to contribute to that continuity.

Recommendations

8. Members are asked to agree to extend the appointment of an Independent Member for a further two years on the same terms.

Zena Cooke
Corporate Director Finance
zena.cooke@kent.gov.uk
Ext: 03000 419205

Benjamin Watts
General Counsel
benjamin.watts@kent.gov.uk
Ext: 03000 416814