

Full Council

26 February 2020

Is the final decision on the recommendations in this report to be made at this meeting?

Yes

Appointment of Independent Member to the Audit and Governance Committee

Final Decision-Maker	Full Council
Portfolio Holder(s)	Councillor Dawlings, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance
Lead Director	Lee Colyer, Director of Finance, Policy & Development (s151 Officer)
Head of Service	Jane Clarke, Head of Policy and Governance
Lead Officer/Author	Emer Moran, Democratic Services Officer
Classification	Non-exempt
Wards affected	All

This report makes the following recommendations to the final decision-maker:

1. That Mr Geoffrey Turner be appointed to the Audit and Governance Committee as an Independent Member for a term of four years.

Explain how this report relates to the Corporate Priorities in the Five Year Plan:

- To support an inclusive borough
- To ensure we operate in a business-like way - This decision supports the Council's commitment to ensure that the authority is well managed, open, transparent and accountable

Timetable

Meeting	Date
Council	26 February 2020

Appointment of Independent Member to the Audit and Governance Committee

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out a recommendation in respect of the appointment of an Independent Member of the Council's Audit and Governance Committee.
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2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 It is considered best practice by the Audit Commission to appoint Independent Members to the relevant council committee dealing with audit matters. At Tunbridge Wells Borough Council this committee is the Audit and Governance Committee.
- 2.2 Appointments must be agreed at Full Council, and it is common practice for the appointments to be made for a four yearly term.
- 2.3 One Independent Member of the committee has decided to stand down, leaving a vacancy which was advertised and interviewed for at the end of last year.
- 2.4 The Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee, in consultation with the Director of Finance, Policy and Development has conducted interviews for the role, and made an informal offer of appointment to Mr Geoffrey Turner, which is now subject to approval by Full Council.

3. AVAILABLE OPTIONS

- 3.1 The appointment of an Independent Member to the Audit and Governance Committee follows best practice as set out by the Audit Commission for committees dealing with audit matters, therefore there are no other options to consider.
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4. PREFERRED OPTION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 That Mr Geoffrey Turner be appointed as an Independent Member to the Audit and Governance Committee for a term of four years.
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5. CONSULTATION RESULTS AND PREVIOUS COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

- 5.1 The Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee have been consulted.
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6. NEXT STEPS: COMMUNICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

- 6.1 Once a decision has been made by the Borough Council, an appointment letter will be sent to Mr Geoffrey Turner. This decision will also be recorded in the minutes of the meeting of this meeting.

7. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
Legal including Human Rights Act	Approval of the appointment is a function of Full Council. The appointment will be consistent with the provisions of the Council's Constitution and will be for a fixed period of four years starting on the date of appointment letter.	Keith Trowell, Team Leader (Corporate Governance) and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Finance and other resources	The allowances payable are in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Constitution and there are no additional financial implications.	Lee Colyer, Director of Finance, Policy & Development
Staffing establishment	No issues identified.	Report Author
Risk Management	There are no specific risk management issues to address. It should be noted that the Audit and Governance Committee has, within its remit, responsibility for overseeing risk management arrangements within the Council, which contributes to the overall control environment of the authority.	Report Author
Data Protection	No issues identified.	Report Author
Environment and Sustainability	No issues identified.	Report Author
Community Safety	No issues identified.	Report Author
Health and Safety	No issues identified.	Report Author
Health and Wellbeing	No issues identified.	Report Author
Equalities	The decision recommended has a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no apparent equality impact on end users.	Ingrid Weatherup Corporate Governance Officer

8. REPORT APPENDICES

8.1 None.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 None.