

Report to the Council (Supplementary)

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 20 February 2007

Report of: Corporate Governance Group

Item:

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

- (2) That the Audit and Governance Committee comprise five members, two of whom should be co-opted persons;
 - (3) That the terms of reference of the Audit and Governance Committee be as set out in Appendix 1 attached;
 - (4) That the revised terms of reference of the Finance and Performance Management Cabinet Committee be as set out in Appendix 2 attached;
 - (5) That the terms of reference of interview panel established for the appointment of an independent person for the Standards Committee be extended to cover the recruitment of co-opted members of the Audit and Governance Committee;
 - (6) That the Management Board be authorised, in consultation with the interview panel to agree:
 - (a) appropriate interview arrangements;
 - (b) person specifications for the co-optees;
 - (c) training;
 - (d) advertising via website, press releases, parish council newsletters and public notices in the local press;
 - (7) That co-optees members be deemed to be eligible for a co-optee's allowance; and
 - (8) That the Head of Research and Democratic Services be authorised to make consequential amendments to the Constitution as a result of the establishment of the new Committee.
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Report:

1. This supplementary report arises from the Corporate Governance Group (Joint Chief Executives, Chief Financial Officer, Monitoring Officer, Deputy Monitoring Officer and Chief Internal auditor) and seeks to clarify points of detail with the Council regarding the new Audit and Governance Committee. The principle that such a Committee should be established from the Council year 2007/8 has already been supported both by Overview and Scrutiny and the Cabinet.
2. It is proposed that the Committee should have five members, two of whom should be co-optees. The co-opted members should qualify for a co-optee's allowance and should be assessed at interview against a person specification designed to test their suitability for an audit and governance role.
3. The proposal is that a person specification and other recruitment details would be developed by Management Board in consultation with the interviewing panel. In regard to the latter, it is recommended that the same Panel should conduct the recruitment process as has already been established for the independent member vacancy on the Standards Committee.
4. As to advertising these positions, there is no statutory requirement for a notice in the press. However, if there are funds available, an advertisement in the local press will be published. Press releases, the website and parish newsletters will be also used to encourage interest.
5. The main changes in the Constitution are shown in Appendices 1 and 2 attached. Authority is sought for other consequential revisions to the Constitution to be made by the Head of Research and Democratic Services. Members can be involved in this process, in which case the Constitutional Affairs Standing Scrutiny Panel might be the best vehicle.