



AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 9 MARCH 2021

REPORT TITLE:	AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE INDEPENDENT MEMBER
REPORT OF:	CHIEF INTERNAL AUDITOR

REPORT SUMMARY

This report updates Members on progress that is being made by officers to appoint an independent non-elected Member to the Audit and Risk Management Committee in compliance with the Committee's Terms of Reference and actions identified in the recent Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Independent Review into the Oversight of Local Audit and the Transparency of Local Authority Financial Reporting (Redmond review).

RECOMMENDATION

The Audit and Risk Management Committee is recommended to note the report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To ensure that the Audit and Risk Management Committee is fully compliant with its revised Terms of Reference, specifically Section 13.1 (c) relating to the inclusion of an independent non-voting person on the Committee.
- 1.2 To ensure that the Council is taking appropriate measures to comply with the findings and outcomes from the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Independent Review into the Oversight of Local Audit and the Transparency of Local Authority Financial Reporting commonly referred to as the Redmond review regarding the appointment of independent members to public sector audit committees.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 No other options considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1. The Council revised the Terms of Reference for the Audit and Risk Management Committee in September 2020 in line with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants (CIPFA) updated best practice position statement publication, Audit Committees in Local Authorities and Police.
- 3.2 The revised terms of reference, at Section 13.1 (c) identify that “the Committee will include a person who is not a Member or officer of the Council who shall be a co-opted member of the Committee entitled to speak but not vote at meetings”.
- 3.3 The Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Independent Review into the Oversight of Local Audit and the Transparency of Local Authority Financial Reporting commonly referred to as the Redmond review was completed in September 2020. One of the recommendations from this review was that Local Authorities should consider the appointment of an independent member, suitably qualified to the Audit Committee.
- 3.4 Officers of the Council have recently been working on a specification, application pack and advertisement for this appointment and intend to advertise this position shortly with the appointment to be made before the first meeting of the Audit and Risk Management Committee in the new municipal year.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The appointment is not a paid position so there are no direct financial implications.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The implementation of actions identified in this report will ensure continued compliance with the Council’s Constitution.

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

6.1 There is none arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 Appropriate actions are not taken by officers and Members in response to the identification of risks to the achievement of the Council's objectives.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 Members of this Committee are consulted throughout the process of delivering the Internal Audit Plan and the content of this regular routine report.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who may be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity.

9.2 The Council operates all recruitment processes in accordance with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

10. ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The content and/or recommendations contained within this report are expected to have no impact on emissions of CO2/greenhouse gases.

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APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

MHCLG Independent Review into the Oversight of Local Audit and the Transparency of Local Authority Financial Reporting (2020)

CIPFA Position Statement Audit Committees in Local Authorities and Police (2020).

ARMC Terms of Reference

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
None	