

Report of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee held on 13 January 2025 – Independent Member

Timetable	
Meeting	Date
Audit, Governance and Standards Committee	13 January 2025
Council	19 February 2025

Wards affected	All
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Executive Summary

The Council's Constitution makes provision for the co-option of an Independent Member to the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee. Following a recruitment process and interviews carried out by a panel comprising the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee and the Director of Finance, Resources and Business Improvement, the Committee is now recommending a candidate for co-option by the Council.

Purpose of Report

Decision

This report makes the following recommendation to the Council:

1. That Mr David Dobbs be co-opted as an Independent Member of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee.

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1. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 The Council's Constitution makes provision for the co-option of an Independent Member to the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee. This is in line with best practice and with guidance from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).
 - 1.2 The Independent Member will be in addition to the two Parish Representatives who already sit on the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee. Like the Parish Representatives, the Independent Member will not have voting rights.
 - 1.3 In order to ensure that a wide range of potential candidates was alerted to the opportunity, the role was advertised on LinkedIn, PF Jobs and the Council's own website. Two applications were received, both from candidates who met the criteria for the role. A panel comprising the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee and the Director of Finance, Resources and Business Improvement met the candidates.
 - 1.4 Both candidates seen by the panel submitted strong applications and performed well in interview. On the basis of a structured interview assessment, the panel agreed unanimously to recommend to the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee that the preferred candidate (Mr David Dobbs) be put forward to the Council for co-option and this recommendation was agreed by the Committee.
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2. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND WHY NOT RECOMMENDED

- 2.1 The Council could choose not to accept the recommendation of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee and agree that the recruitment process should start again, but the preferred candidate has excellent experience, of considerable relevance for the Committee, and meets the requirements for the role.
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3. REPORT APPENDICES

None

4. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None