Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

16 October 2018

Subject:	Appointment of Independent Member to the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee
Director:	Director - Monitoring Officer - Surjit Tour Executive Director – Resources – Darren Carter
Contribution towards Vision 2030:	
Contact Officer(s):	Trisha Newton Principal Democratic Services Officer Trisha_newton@sandwell.gov.uk

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS
That Council:
1. Consider increasing the membership of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee to include one additional Independent Member.
2. Subject to (1) above, consider the appointment of Heikki Doyle as Independent Member to the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee for the four year period ending 15th October 2022.

1   PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1   Independent Member for the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee

1.2   At the Council meeting on 4 April 2017, as part of the 2017/18 Governance (Committee and Scrutiny Board Structure) review, it was agreed to appoint a second Independent Member to the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee.

1.3   The position was appointed to by Council at its meeting on 17 July 2018.

1.4   In view of the high calibre of applications, approval is now sought from Council to consider increasing the membership of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee and to appoint a third Independent Member.

1.5   Interviews took place on 9 July 2018. The interview panel consisted of the Chair of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee, the Head of Audit and the Director – Monitoring Officer.

1.6   Should Council be minded to increase the membership of the Audit and Risk Assurance to allow an additional Independent Member, approval is sought to the appointment of Heikki Doyle for a four year period ending 15th October 2022.

2   **IMPLICATIONS FOR SANDWELL'S VISION**

2.1   The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee contributes to the achievement of Sandwell's vision by examining and reporting on the state of the council's governance, risk management and internal control environment.

3   **STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

3.1   The role of Independent Member is a voluntary position and no annual allowance is paid in respect of this appointment. However, travelling and subsistence expenses are paid at the appropriate rate. The cost of advertising is met from within existing budgets.

4   **LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS**

4.1   The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee operates to an approved terms of reference, based upon a model from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

4.2   Local authorities should have regard to section 13 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 which relates to the voting rights of non-elected committee members. Where the audit committee is operating as an advisory committee under the 1972 Act, making recommendations rather than policy, then all members of the committee should be able to vote on that recommendation. If the council wishes to delegate decisions to the committee, for example the adoption of the financial statements, then the independent member will not be able to vote on those matters for decision.

5 CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)

5.1 No consultation is required. The proposal is subject to approval by full Council.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

6.1 There are no alternative options. The proposal is subject to approval by full Council.

7 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 An equality impact assessment is not required.

8 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

8.1 A data protection impact assessment is not required.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT

9.1 There are no crime and disorder issues arising from this report.

10 SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS

10.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

11 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)

11.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

12 IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND

12.1 There is no impact on any Council managed property arising from this report.

Darren Carter
Executive Director – Resources

Surjit Tour
Director – Monitoring Officer