

WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

18 July 2024

Report Title **Audit & Governance Committee – Appointment of Co-opted Independent Members**

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Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

MO	Catherine Whitehead	09/07/2024
S151 Officer	Martin Henry	09/07/2024
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. To seek approval for the appointment of two independent co-opted members of the Audit & Governance Committee.

2. Executive Summary

2.1. Following completion of a rigorous selection process this report seeks approval to appoint two persons to the vacant positions that were recently approved.

3. Recommendation

3.1 It is recommended that Mr Charles Davidson and Mr Mark Jones be appointed as independent non-voting co-opted members of the Audit & Governance Committee, both appointments to be for a period of 4 years.

4. Reason for Recommendation

4.1 To make appointments to the two positions following a rigorous selection process.

5. Report Background

5.1 At its meeting on 21st March 2024 Council approved the creation of two independent non-voting co-opted members of the Audit & Governance Committee (minute reference 190).

5.2 A selection process has been undertaken involving 4 applicants who were interviewed by the Executive Director – Finance, the Deputy Director – Law & Governance, and the Head of Audit & Risk Management. Each applicant also met with the Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee.

5.3 Following that process, the following persons are recommended for appointment:

Mr Charles Davidson

Mr Davidson has experience working at a senior level in central government in various information technology and cyber security roles, and has recently established his own company providing advice on technical security matters. He has been a school governor, and has also volunteered with several learning disability related organisations. He has lived in the area for the last 34 years.

Mr Mark Jones

Mr Jones is a partner with a national firm of auditors and accountants, leading on a portfolio of over 20 outsourced internal audit clients across the housing, emergency services, NHS, charity and education sectors. A qualified CIPFA accountant, he also has previous experience as the chief internal auditor for a number of local authorities. He lives in the area.

6. Issues and Choices

6.1 Council is asked to confirm the appointments as recommended in this report.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources and Financial

7.1.1 It is proposed to pay an allowance in line with the allowance paid to the other Co-opted Independent Members of the Council (£500 per annum). This is subject to review and assessment by the Independent Remuneration Panel and can be covered using existing budgets.

7.2 Legal

7.2.1 There are no specific legal implications associated with this report.

7.3 Risk

7.3.1 There are no risks arising from this report.

7.4 Consultation

7.4.1 None required.

7.5 Climate Impact

7.5.1 None identified.

7.6 Community Impact

7.6.1 None identified.

7.7 Communications

7.7.1 None required.

8. Background Papers

8.1 Report to Council: [Appointment of Co-opted Members of the Audit Committee.](#)