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**Appointment of Independent Chairperson of Audit and Scrutiny Committee**

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**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report outlines the position with respect to the appointment of an independent Chair of the Audit & Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.2 Since May 2017 The Council has had in place as part of its Political Management Arrangements an Audit and Scrutiny Committee with a Chairperson independent of the Council. This is an unremunerated position and has provided for the appointment of an experienced individual with subject matter expertise in matters relating to audit and scrutiny functions.
- 1.3 The appointment of the current chair, Martin Caldwell, is due to expire on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022. In the event of Council agreeing to maintain similar political management arrangements it is proposed that the Council extend the appointment of Martin Caldwell for a further 9 months in order to maintain continuity in transition arrangements for a new council and to commence a recruitment process for a replacement chairperson.
- 1.4 Mr Caldwell has confirmed he would accept the Council's invitation to continue to chair the Audit and Scrutiny Committee for this period and looks forward to contributing and supporting the independent assurance and scrutiny arrangements of the Council.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the council:
- a) Agree to extend the appointment of Martin Caldwell until the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 to chair the Audit and Scrutiny Committee.
  - b) Agree to delegate responsibility for instigating a recruitment process for a new independent chair to the Chief Executive and Executive Directors in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Depute Leader of the Council and the Leader of the largest Opposition Group.
  - c) To note that any final decision on appointment to the position of Chairperson will be a matter for Council.

**3. DETAIL**

- 3.1 Martin Caldwell was appointed to the role of Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee following agreement of the Council in August 2010 and was then appointed to

Chair by the Appointments Panel, through delegated powers of the Council, in February 2013. His term office is due to expire on 30 June 2022.

- 3.2 In order to secure continuity of chairmanship it is proposed that the current term of office be extended until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 to support transition arrangements for the new council and to facilitate arrangements for recruitment of a replacement Chairperson.
- 3.3 Mr Caldwell has confirmed he would accept the Council's invitation to continue to chair the Audit and Scrutiny Committee and looks forward to contributing and supporting the independent assurance and scrutiny arrangements of the Council. In agreeing to this the Council has retained the valuable knowledge and experience of a non-councillor member.
- 3.4 There is no remuneration for this appointment beyond the reimbursement of expenses.
- 3.5 The Council is invited to delegate arrangements for the recruitment process to identify a replacement Chairperson to the Chief Executive and Executive Directors in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Depute Leader of the Council and the Leader of the largest Opposition Group. In accordance with the Council Constitution the approval of such an appointment is a matter reserved for Council and as such will be reported back to Council in due course.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 It is recommended that In order to secure continuity of independent chairmanship of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee that the current term of office for Martin Caldwell be extended until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. This will support transition arrangements for the new council and facilitate arrangements for recruitment of a replacement Chairperson.

#### **5.0 IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Policy – None directly but the appointment of an independent chair is recognised as good practice and promotes openness and transparency.
- 5.2 Financial – There is no remuneration package associated with this appointment, with the exception of reasonable travelling and subsistence expenses.
- 5.3 HR – None
- 5.4 Fairer Scotland Duty:  
Equal Opportunities – None  
Socio Economic Duty – None known.  
Islands - none
- 5.5 Legal – None.

5.6 Risk – None.

5.7 Customer Service – None.

**Douglas Hendry**

**Executive Director with responsibility for Legal and Regulatory Support**

**12<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

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