

INDEPENDENT REPRESENTATIVES: AUDIT COMMITTEE

1. SUMMARY

This report seeks authorisation from the Council to further extend the term of office of the current Chair of the Committee for a 6 month period. In doing so it will provide some continuity on the Committee post election and also allow a period of time for the new Council, when considering the Independent Representatives political management arrangements, to decide whether to retain the Audit Committee's existing role and remit.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Recommend that the Council agree to further extend the term of office of the current chair of the Audit Committee to 30 September 2012.

3. DETAIL

- 3.1 On 24 April 2008 the Council previously agreed to extend the period of office of the current Chair, Ian Ross, to 31 March 2012 and the then Vice-Chair, Christopher Valentine to 31 March 2010. This was to allow for succession planning in staggering the appointments of the two non councillor members thereby allowing a 2 year introductory phase before the Vice-Chair was required to step up to the role of Chair.
- 3.2 Martin Caldwell was appointed to the role of Vice-Chair following agreement of the Council in August 2010. His term of office is due to expire on 31 March 2014.
- 3.3 In agreeing to this extension, the Council would not only retain the valuable knowledge and experience of the non councillor members which, given there may be changes in the membership of the Committee post election, would provide for some stability within the Committee, but would also give an appropriate period of time, should the Council agree post election to retain the existing committee structure, to undertake a recruitment process prior to 30 September 2012.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Agreeing to extend the term of office of the Chair would provide continuity in membership of the committee and provide a period of time in which to advertise and recruit a replacement non councillor member to serve in place of the current chair.

5. IMPLICATIONS

Policy -	The current constitution stipulates that 2 non councillor members of the Audit Committee should be chair and vice-chair of the Committee
Financial –	None
Legal -	None
Personnel -	An extended term of office would allow guaranteed continuity in membership/experience
Equal Opportunities -	None

**Sally Loudon
Chief Executive**

5 March 2012