

Rother District Council

Report to:	Audit and Standards Committee
Date:	22 March 2021
Title:	Audit Independent Person Recruitment
Report of:	Robin Vennard, Assistant Director Resources
Purpose of Report:	To recommend the appointment of an Audit Independent Person to take office with effect from 18 May 2021.
Officer	
Recommendation(s):	Recommendation to COUNCIL: That Patrick Farmer be appointed as the Council's Audit Independent Person, for an initial term of two years (extendable for a further two years) with effect from 18 May 2021.

Introduction

1. As Members may recall, at the meeting held in May 2020, the Committee made a recommendation to Council that an Audit Independent Person (AIP) be appointed to this Committee; this was subsequently agreed. The AIP is a non-elected member of the public with some experience in the area of audit, is a non-voting Member of the Committee and is present in an advisory / consultative manner only.
2. The Committee agreed that the Chairman of the Committee, the Assistant Director Resources and the Audit Manager comprise a panel to interview the suitable applicants and make a recommendation to the next available meeting and then on to full Council.

Publicity

3. The Independent Person vacancy was advertised by way of a press release, the Council's website and promoted via social media and MyAlerts, as well being notified to all Councillors and all Parish and Town Councils within the Rother area. Each applicant was provided with a recruitment pack that set out the Role Profile and Person Specification.

Selection and Interview Panel

4. At the closing date (29 January 2021), three applications had been received and all three candidates were offered an interview; prior to interview one candidate was excluded due to a financial conflict.
5. The two remaining interviews were held on 18 February 2021 via MS Teams; one of the applicants wished also to be considered for the Standards Independent Person, if they were unsuccessful and had been a previous 2019 candidate.

6. The expectations of the role in terms of regular attendance at meetings and contributions to committee discussions were explained to each applicant at interview.
7. The decision of the Panel is outlined below in order that the Committee can then make a recommendation to full Council on 17 May 2021. The calibre of the applicants was high, and it was a difficult decision to make.

Appointment

8. The Panel are confident to recommend that Mr Patrick Farmer be appointed as the Council's Audit Independent Person for an initial period of two years with the option of extending this for a further two years. A profile of Mr Farmer has been circulated to Members separately from the Agenda.

Conclusion

9. Following the recruitment process to appoint an Audit Independent Person, the Committee is asked to recommend to Council that Mr Patrick Farmer's name be put forward for approval by the full Council on Monday 17 May.

Other Implications	Applies?	Other Implications	Applies?
Human Rights	No	Equalities and Diversity	No
Crime and Disorder	No	External Consultation	No
Environmental	No	Access to Information	No
Risk Management	Yes	Exempt from publication	No

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Appendices:	None.
Relevant Previous Minutes:	None.
Background Papers:	None.
Reference Documents:	None.