

COUNCIL

19 DECEMBER 2019

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Report Title	RECOMMENDATIONS FROM AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Purpose of Report	To put recommendations from Audit & Standards Committee for consideration and, if appropriate, approval
Decision(s)	<p>Council RESOLVES that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Audit and Standards Committee's Terms of Reference are approved. 2. An Independent Member is co-opted on to the Audit and Standards Committee on a non-voting basis. 3. The appointment of the Independent Member is delegated to the Audit of Standards Committee. 4. The process for selecting and recommending an appropriate candidate is delegated to the Strategic Director of Resources in consultation with the Chair of Audit and Standards Committee.
Consultation and Feedback	Please refer to the original Committee reports.
Financial Implications and Risk Assessment	<p>Financial implications are limited to the allowance of £550 per year for the Independent Member which can be met from existing budgets.</p> <p>Andrew Cummings, Strategic Director of Resources Tel: 01453 754115 Email: andrew.cummings@stroud.gov.uk</p>
Legal Implications	<p>Any legal implications will be set out in the original reports to Audit & Standards Committee.</p> <p>Patrick Arran, Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer Tel: 01453 754369 Email: patrick.arran@stroud.gov.uk</p>
Report Author	Patrick Arran
Options	Council can either accept the recommendations of the Audit & Standards Committee, decide to amend the recommendations and / or terms of reference or refuse to accept the recommendations
Background Papers	None
Appendices	Appendix 1 - Proposed Terms of Reference

1. On the 19th of November 2019, Audit and Standards Committee considered two reports submitted by the Chief Internal Auditor. The first under agenda item 7 related to the terms of reference of the Committee, the report can be viewed [here](#). The second report, agenda item 8, related to the proposal to appoint an

Independent Member to the Audit and Standards Committee and can be viewed [here](#).

2. The Committee resolved to recommend to Council the recommendations set out in this report.
3. Council will see from the minutes of the meeting of Audit & Standards that Members of the committee asked the Interim Monitoring Officer to consider the membership of any Standards Sub-Committee as it was felt that the proposed size of the committee was perhaps larger than would be preferable.
4. The suggestion in the terms of reference was for there to be 5 Councillors and 2 Independent Members proportional to the political composition of the Council and two Independent Persons. (Ordinarily the discretionary committee would set up a Sub-Committee from its membership but the Council's Standing Orders reserve the setting up of Sub-Committees to Council.) The quorum is proposed to be three persons present for the duration of the meeting which must include at least one Independent Person.
5. The terms of reference anticipated a larger Sub-Committee on the basis that the Chair of Audit & Standards would be a member of the Sub-Committee but is currently not part of any political group and may therefore be inadvertently precluded by the application of political balance rules.
6. The proposal will be considered by the Constitution Working Group as part of the review of the Constitution, but, subject to allocation of seats in accordance with the political balance rules, there is no reason why Council could not consider a smaller Sub-Committee consisting of 4 elected members and one Independent Person.