

**MRWA APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER TO THE AUDIT
COMMITTEE**
WDA/08/26

Recommendation

That Members:

1. Approve an increase in the remuneration in respect of the position from £500 per annum to up to £1,500 per annum, plus expenses;

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MRWA APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE
WDA/08/26

Report of the Director of Finance

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To approve an increase in the proposed fees for the Independent Member to the Audit Committee.

2. Background

2.1 On 26 September, members approved the principle of appointing an independent member to the audit committee at a remuneration of £500 per annum.

2.2 Members will recall that the appointment of independent auditors is recommended by accountancy bodies such as CIPFA and the government. The current government's strategy to overhaul local audit in England envisages mandating audit committees to meet this recommendation (see link below to the Government's response to the consultation undertaken in 2025 below).

[Local audit reform: Government response to the consultation to overhaul local audit in England - GOV.UK](#)

2.3 Members also approved a person specification and this is included at Appendix 1 for reference.

3. Key areas of the report

3.1 The post has been advertised three times since the Authority meeting referred to above but there have been no applications.

3.2 It is therefore proposed to readvertise the post at an increased remuneration of £1,500 per annum.

4. Risk Implications

4.1 Subject to adequate vetting procedures and adherence to the Person Specification, this initiative should augment the Audit Committee's independence, provide additional expertise, and provide an opportunity for the committee to play an enhanced role in the governance of the Authority.

5. HR Implications

5.1 There are no HR implications

6. Environmental Implications

6.1 There are no environmental implications

7. Financial Implications

7.1 The costs associated with the recruitment, selection, appointment and subsequent disbursements to any independent panel members can be contained from within existing revenue service budgets.

8. Legal Implications

8.1 An Authority's Audit Committee is defined by the Local Government Act 2000 and its purpose is to give assurance to elected members and the public about the governance, financial reporting and performance of the Authority. The appointment of independent members on the committee will assist and promote good governance and scrutiny of the committee.

9. Conclusion

9.1 It is recommended that recruitment be on a competitive basis following the Authority's usual recruitment procedures be continued but at the increased level of remuneration outlined in this report.

10. Appendices

10.1 The appendices to this report are:

Appendix 1: Person Specification

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The background documents to this report are open to inspection in accordance with Section 100D of The Local Government Act 1972 - Nil.

APPENDIX 1: Person specification

Requirements	Where identified*	Essential	Desirable
A broad range of experience, preferably in public, private, voluntary and charitable sector employment or service including self-employed, employed and voluntary positions.	A	X	
Understanding of the wider local government environment and accountability structures.	A		X
Strategic/financial management responsibilities.	A		X
Qualification in accountancy, finance, risk management, business management or internal audit.	A		X
Good understanding of corporate governance and risk management and the key elements of audit, value for money and external scrutiny. The ability to formulate and evaluate solutions to the issues identified.	A		X
Good understanding of the roles of internal and external audit.	I		X
Ability to understand complex issues and make objective, evidence-based decisions.	I	X	
Strong interpersonal and communication skills.	I	X	
Willingness to participate in meetings and ask searching questions in order to challenge and hold to account council officers and the representatives of internal and external audit.	I	X	
Attend and prepare for each meeting of the Joint Audit and Governance Committee.	I	X	
Ability/willingness to attend any relevant training or development activities associated with the role.	I	X	
Independence of mind, objectivity and impartiality.	I	X	
Experience of chairing meetings ¹	A		X

* A is application form I is interview

¹ Included for the event that the Government subsequently mandates an independent chair for all local authority audit committees