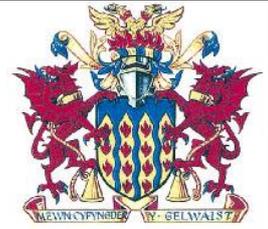


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|-----------------|--|
| Report to       | <b>North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority<br/>Annual Meeting</b>  |
| Date            | <b>15 July 2024</b>  |
| Lead Officer    | <b>Gareth Owens, Clerk</b>                                       |
| Contact Officer | <b>Gareth Owens, Clerk (01745 535286)</b>                        |
| Subject         | <b>Appointment of Audit Committee Chair and Deputy<br/>Chair</b> |



## PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 To approve the process for appointing the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Audit Committee and to make these appointments for 2024/25.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2 There is currently an anomaly in the Constitution around how the Chair/Deputy Chair of the Audit Committee is appointed. It is recommended that the appointment should be made by the Full Authority at the AGM. Having agreed the process, the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority (the Authority) also needs to make the appointments for the coming municipal year.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3 It is recommended that:
  - i) The Chair/Deputy Chair of the Audit Committee should be appointed by the full Authority and that the constitution be changed to reflect this; and
  - ii) That the Authority appoints the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Audit Committee for 2024/25.

## BACKGROUND

- 4 Part 3 of the constitution provides for the appointment of committees and states that the Standards Committee appoints its own Chair; however, it does not say the same for the Audit Committee. Paragraph 12(2) ch in part 4 of the constitution does say that the Audit Committee will appoint its own Chair and Deputy Chair and will then submit the result to the Authority for ratification (without saying what happens if the Authority does not ratify the outcome).

## INFORMATION

- 5 In recent years, it has been the practice of the Authority to appoint the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Audit Committee at the annual meeting. This gives the greatest involvement of councillors in the decision making process. It also means the appointment is made as early as possible in the municipal year which is less important in most years, but is a great advantage in a year after an election or when the membership of the Authority changes.
- 6 If the Authority wishes to continue appointing the Chair/Deputy Chair then paragraph 12(2)ch should be deleted and a statement should be added to Standing Order 8 and to part 3 of the constitution to say that the appointment will be made at the annual meeting. If the Audit Committee is to appoint its own Chair, then the need to refer the decision back to the Authority for ratification should be removed as it creates the potential for conflicting decisions to be reached (or fetters the choice of the Authority).
- 7 Assuming that the Authority wishes to continue to appoint the Chair and Deputy Chair then it will need to seek nominations for those positions.

## IMPLICATIONS

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Wellbeing Objectives                       | Considered not relevant   |
| Budget                                     | The process for appointing the Chair of the Audit Committee has no impact on the budget   |
| Legal                                      | The process to be adopted is a matter of choice for the Authority because legislation doesn't specify how the Chair should be appointed |
| Staffing                                   | Considered not relevant   |
| Equalities/Human Rights/<br>Welsh Language | Considered not relevant   |
| Risks                                      | Considered not relevant   |