

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

13 DECEMBER 2013

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER

Report of the Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to notify the Committee of the appointment of the Independent Member to the Committee.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Audit and Governance Committee includes two independent members (one of whom acts as Independent Chair). The other independent member has recently retired from the Committee, and as such a recruitment process was undertaken to appoint an appropriately experienced new independent member.

3. Recruitment Process

- 3.1 The role was advertised in the Echo and Journal with a closing date for applications of 25 October. Three candidates were shortlisted, with interviews taking place on 15th November. The interview panel recommended that Council approve the appointment of Martin Knowles to the post.
- 3.2 Mr Knowles is currently retired, but has recently been Interim Chief Executive of South Tyneside Homes. Previously Mr Knowles has worked at CEO level for 14 years with Four Housing Group, and has also held Director of Finance roles with a number of NHS Trusts. In addition, Mr Knowles currently serves on the Audit Committees of New College Durham (where he is Audit Chair) and Two Castles Housing Association. As such, Mr Knowles has a vast range of experience relevant to the work of the Committee.

4. Confirmation of Independent Member

- 4.1 Council confirmed the appointment of Mr Knowles to the role of Independent Member to the Audit and Governance Committee on 27th November.
- 4.2 For information, Mr Knowles has also been confirmed as the Independent Member for the Tyne and Wear Fire Rescue Authority Audit and Governance Committee, following a meeting of the Fire Authority on 21st November.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 The Committee is asked to note the report.

