

Date: 7th January 2020

Subject: Appointment of Independent Audit Committee Members

Report of: David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources & Investment and Steve Wilson, GMCA Treasurer

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To request the GMCA approves the appointment of the two proposed individuals as independent members to the GMCA's Audit Committee.

RECOMMENDATION:

The GMCA is requested to:

Approve the appointment of Mr Grenville Page and Ms Susan Webster as Independent Members of the Audit Committee, subject to completion of required pre-employment checks, with immediate effect.

CONTACT OFFICERS:

Sarah Horseman, Head of Audit and Assurance
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Steve Wilson, GMCA Treasurer
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Risk Management – N/A

Legal Considerations – N/A

Financial Consequences – N/A

Financial Consequences – N/A

Number of attachments included in the report: N/A

BACKGROUND PAPERS: N/A

TRACKING/PROCESS	
Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution	No
EXEMPTION FROM CALL IN	
Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?	No

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. GMCA approved in principal the appointment of two additional independent members of the Audit Committee at its meeting on 27 September 2019.
- 1.2. Legislation requires that before an independent person appointment can be made the vacancy has to be publicly advertised; applicants have to formally apply to fill the vacancy, and their appointment has been approved by a majority of members of the GMCA.

2. APPOINTMENT PROCESS

- 2.1. The vacancies for Independent Members of the GMCA Audit Committee were advertised on the Greater Jobs website. Five applications were received and interviews were held with all applicants on 27th November 2019. The interview panel consisted of the GMCA Audit Committee Chair, Joint Audit Panel (Police and Crime) Chair, GMCA Treasurer and Head of Audit and Assurance.
- 2.2. It is recommended that the GMCA agrees the appointment of Mr Grenville Page and Ms Susan Webster as independent members of the GMCA's Audit Committee for a term of three years.

3. BRIEF BACKGROUND OF RECOMMENDED APPLICANTS

- 3.1. Mr Grenville Page is an experienced non-executive director with a range of experience from across the public (local government, health, central government), housing, charities/social enterprises and education sectors. Mr Page started his career at the Greater Manchester Council (GMC) where he held accountancy roles covering a variety of services including Highways, Refuse Disposal including Waste Treatment Limited and economic regeneration and job creation before moving to Trafford MBC. He also then worked as a Director of Finance for the NHS before moving to the Department for Work and Pensions. He currently holds a portfolio of non-executive roles including Manchester Health and Care Commissioning, Viaduct Care, Equity Housing and the Dean Trust. He is a member of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance (CIPFA) and has previously held Finance Director positions in health, social enterprise and private care sector organisations.
- 3.2. Ms Susan Webster is also an experienced non-executive director. She is currently a member of the Audit and Risk and Remuneration Committees of Totally Local Company Limited and has previously held roles on Committees of the Greater Manchester Arts Centre, Greater Manchester Academy Trust, Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and pro-Manchester Ltd. Ms Webster spent her early career in financial and management consulting roles working with a variety of public and private sector organisations. She then spent a number of years working for a communications

technology company as a programme director with responsibility for a number of complex change programmes. She also has experience of delivering large capital projects including the construction of two academies and a 4G pitch for school and community use. Ms Webster is an ambassador for Women on Boards UK, is a Fellow of the Institute of Consulting and a Member of the Chartered Management Institute of Management.

4. RECOMMENDATION

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