



Extract from the minutes of the Joint Governance Committee - 28 July 2022

JGC/019/22-23 Audit Committee with Independent Non-Voting Members

The Interim Monitoring Officer delivered his report explaining that its purpose was to inform Members of best practice for the Councils' audit function. He clarified that the government planned to legislate that all councils would be required to have an Audit Committee and that it should be titled as such. Our current Governance Committee already performed the necessary auditing functions and so the report suggested that the word 'Audit' was included in its title.

Members queried whether or not we should have a separate Audit Committee and there was concern that Governance agendas may become too long in future meetings. It was discussed that if lengthy agendas became an unmanageable reality in the future then the committee would revisit this issue.

Officers explained that the future legislation would also prescribe that the committee include at least one independent person. This committee already had two appointed independent persons and the report recommended that these two people continue in their roles.

Members specified that in 4.6 of this report it stated that the committee should receive the Annual Risk Report. Members proposed expanding the terms of reference to include that they should not only receive the report but examine, test and scrutinise it.

This proposal was seconded and voted for unanimously.

The Committee considered the reports recommendations which were proposed, seconded and unanimously supported.

Resolved

The Joint Governance Committee:

- **Recommended to each Council the change of the name of the Councils' Joint Governance Committee to the Joint Audit and Governance Committee**

- **Recommended to each Council the appointment of two Independent co-opted Persons to the Committee to assist with the Councils' with the audit function.**
- Agreed to add to the Joint Committee's terms of reference a requirement to report on audit matters to both Adur and Worthing Full Councils on an annual basis in line with best practice guidance
- Agreed to prepare and submit an annual report to both full Councils reporting on the internal and external audit activities in the previous fiscal year.
- Authorised the Monitoring Officer to make the required appointments and any necessary changes to the constitutions arising from this Report.