

# Birmingham City Council

## Report to City Council

17 September 2024



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<b>Title:</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT CHAIR OF AUDIT COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Lead Cabinet Portfolio:</b>	Councillor Robert Pocock, Cabinet Member for Transformation, Governance and HR
<b>Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee:</b>	N/A
<b>Report Author:</b>	Robert Connelly, Assistant Director - Governance Legal and Governance 0121 303 2443 robert.connelly@birmingham.gov.uk
<b>Authorised by:</b>	Marie Rosenthal, Interim Monitoring Officer & City Solicitor Legal & Governance
<b>Is this a Key Decision?</b>	Not Applicable
<b>If this is a Key Decision, is this decision listed on the Forward Plan?</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Reason(s) why not included on the Forward Plan:</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Is this a Late Report?</b>	No
<b>Reason(s) why Late:</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Is this decision eligible for 'call in?'</b>	Not Applicable
<b>If not eligible, please provide reason(s):</b>	Not Applicable

**Wards:** All

**Does this report contain exempt or confidential information?** No

**Has this decision been included on the Notification of Intention to consider Matters in Private?** Not Applicable

**Reasons why not included on the Notification:** Not Applicable

## **1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The report seeks to appoint an Independent Chair of the Audit Committee.

## **2 COMMISSIONERS' REVIEW**

- 2.1 Commissioners support the recommendation to appoint the Independent Chair of the Audit Committee.

## **3 RECOMMENDATIONS**

That City Council approves the appointment of Andrew Hardingham as Independent Chair of the Audit Committee for the municipal year 2024/25.

## **4 KEY INFORMATION**

- 4.1 A comprehensive review of the Council's Constitution was conducted earlier this year as part of the Stabilisation Plan to improve the Council's governance arrangements. At the annual meeting on 21 May; Council agreed a number of amendments to the Constitution recommended by the review, including in relation to the role of the Audit Committee.
- 4.2 The Council agreed that an Independent Person to function as Chair to the Audit Committee should be appointed on an annual basis and approved by Council. The Independent Person appointed to act as the Chair of the Committee is not a voting member thus the Chair's casting vote does not apply to this role.
- 4.3 A recruitment campaign seeking suitably qualified candidates was run during May and June 2024. An interview Panel comprising the Leader of the Council, Cllr John Cotton; the Leader of the Opposition Cllr Robert Alden; the Leader of the Liberal Democrats, Cllr Roger Harmer; and Commissioners Max Caller and Chris Tambini met on 24 June and 22 July to interview shortlisted candidates.
- 4.4 The interview Panel agreed unanimously to recommend the appointment of Andrew Hardingham to Council for appointment. Andrew Hardingham has served as the independent advisor to the Audit Committee over the last two years. We have received very satisfactory references of Mr Hardingham's financial skill and good character.

## **5 IMPACT AND IMPLICATIONS**

### **Finance**

- 5.1 Spending control approval has been given to pay Mr Hardingham a fee of £800 per day plus reasonable travelling expenses.

### **Legal**

- 5.2 As detailed in the report

### **Equalities**

- 5.3 There are none arising from this report.

### **Procurement**

5.4 This report has no implications to Corporate Procurement.

### **People Services**

5.5 This report has no implications to People Services.

### **Climate Change, Nature and Net Zero**

5.6 This report has no implications to climate change, nature, and net zero.

### **Corporate Parenting**

5.7 This report has no implications to Corporate Parenting.

### **Other**

5.8 No additional implications arising from this report.

## **6 APPENDICES**

6.1 None

## **7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 None