DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE	24 MAY 2018	6
CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF AUDITOR			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

Members will be aware that following the retirement of the Head of Internal Audit (part-time) in November of last year, a joint recruitment of a Shared Head of Internal Audit has taken place with Preston City Council.

This arrangement is based on each respective council retaining its own in-house internal audit team, with a shared manager across both councils.

The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards, which define the principles for carrying out internal audit in the public sector, give authority for the board (in this instance the Audit and Standards Committee) for approving decisions regarding the appointment (or removal) of the Head of Internal Audit (termed as the chief audit executive within the standards).

RECOMMENDATION

1. To approve the appointment of Dawn Highton, Shared Head of Internal Audit with Preston City Council, to act as the Council's chief audit executive.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

None

CORPORATE PRIORITIES	
Spending your money in the most efficient way to achieve excellent services (**Value for Money**)	√
Delivering the services that customers expect of an excellent council (**Clean and Green**)	√
Working with all partners (**Vibrant Economy**)	√
To make sure Fylde continues to be one of the most desirable places to live (**A Great Place to Live**)	√
Promoting Fylde as a great destination to visit (**A Great Place to Visit**)	√

REPORT

1. The Council employed its previous Head of Internal Audit on a reduced hours, flexible retirement basis, for the previous five years.

2. Following the retirement of this employee in November of last year, consideration was given to the best means of filling this vacancy.

3. This resulted in a Shared Head of Internal Audit post being advertised between Fylde and Preston City Councils. Preston City Council's Head of Internal Audit had also retired around the same time period and a shared recruitment held attractions for both councils. In the case of Fylde Council, the team has been managed on a reduced-hours basis for a number of years successfully.

4. A recruitment was undertaken earlier in the year, and as a result, the post has been offered to Dawn Highton. Dawn will join both Councils on 16th July, bringing with her a wealth of experience in this field. More recently Dawn has held a senior position within the Chorley and South Ribble Councils shared audit collaboration.

5. Fylde Council will be the employing authority for the post, and the shared service arrangements that this Council has with Preston City Council for the corporate fraud service will also be aligned under this post holder, which will bring these two important services together.

6. As the Head of Internal Audit is responsible for defining the extent of internal audit activity in terms of the Internal Audit Plan for the year, it has not been possible to bring the Plan for 2018/19 to members at this stage. However, as soon as the new Head of Internal Audit is in place, this will be brought forward as a priority. In the meantime, the team continue to carry out outstanding audit work from the previous year, together with dealing with any emerging priorities.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	The employment cost for the Shared Head of Internal Audit will be met from the existing approved revenue budget for the audit team.
Legal	A Service Level Agreement will be in place to manage the relationship between the two Councils with respect to the shared post.
Community Safety	None arising from this report
Human Rights and Equalities	None arising from this report
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None arising from this report
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None arising from this report

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
None		