

## DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	COUNCIL	5 JULY 2021	8

### APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

#### PUBLIC ITEM

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

#### SUMMARY

Following on from the recent Lancashire County Council elections, where Councillor John Singleton was elected to represent the Fylde West division, Councillor Singleton has now given notice of his intention to step down from his role as Chairman of Audit and Standards Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021.

As Councillor Singleton's new role on Lancashire County Council, and the Combined Fire Authority, is commanding a significant amount of his time, Councillor Singleton feels he cannot give the Audit and Standards Committee the time it deserves.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Councillor Eleanor Gaunt be appointed Chairman of the Audit and Standards Committee with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021;
2. That Councillor Ed Nash be appointed Vice Chairman of Audit and Standards Committee, to commence his role with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021; and
3. That the Council places on record its thanks for Councillor John Singleton's work, time and commitment for his past 14 years service on the Audit Committee (latterly Audit and Standards), 13 years of which he served as Chairman.

#### SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

19 April 2021 – Council – Confirmation of Committees and Allocation of Membership for the municipal year 2021/22. This decision included the appointment of committee chairman.

#### CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	✓
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	✓
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	✓
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	✓

## REPORT

1. On 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021, Councillor John Singleton JP was elected to represent Fylde West division on Lancashire County Council. Since then Councillor Singleton has been appointed to represent Lancashire County Council on the Combined Fire Authority.
2. With his new roles commanding a significant amount of his time, Councillor Singleton has given notice, to the Leader of the Council, and the Monitoring Officer, that he wishes to be replaced as Chairman of Audit and Standards Committee. He feels he can no longer give the committee the time it deserves.
3. It is proposed that the current Vice Chairman, Councillor Eleanor Gaunt is appointed as the new Chairman, but to allow for a period of handover, it is proposed that Councillor Gaunt take up the new position with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021.
4. The remit of the Audit and Standards Committee is far reaching and significant one, playing an important role in providing assurance and oversight to the governance of the council, both financially and constitutionally. It also has an important role to play in upholding the standards of the council.
5. The period between Council making a decision to appoint a new Chairman and the new Chairman taking up the role, will allow for Councillor Singleton to complete some work, currently underway, reviewing the Local Government Association's Model Code of Conduct, relating to member standards. This work is being undertaken in conjunction with Blackpool Council's Standards Committee. Representatives of the two authorities committees are due to meet over the summer, with a report to Audit and Standards due in Autumn 2021.
6. This period, will also allow for Councillor Singleton to undertake a full handover of audit and standards matters with his replacement. Councillor Singleton has served on Audit Committee (latterly Audit and Standards) for 14 years, 13 years as Chairman. He has a wealth of knowledge and experience to impart. This period will also allow for Councillor Gaunt to be introduced to the council's new auditors with introductions facilitated by Councillor Singleton.
7. As Councillor Gaunt is nominated to take up the role of new Chairman, it creates a vacancy of Vice Chairman to the committee, and as an experienced member of the committee, the Council is asked to appoint Councillor Ed Nash as the new Vice Chairman of Audit and Standards Committee, to commence his role on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021.

### IMPLICATIONS

Finance	None arising from the report.
Legal	None arising from the report.
Community Safety	None arising from the report.
Human Rights and Equalities	None arising from the report.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None arising from the report.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None arising from the report.

### LEAD AUTHOR

### CONTACT DETAILS

### DATE

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### BACKGROUND PAPERS

Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
None		