

COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM No. 13(c)
1 NOVEMBER 2023	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Adesuwa Omoregie, Interim Director of Legal and Governance	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Andy Coles, Cabinet Member for Legal, Finance and Corporate Governance	
Contact Officer(s):	Dan Kalley, Democratic and Constitutional Services Manager	Tel. 296334

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE CHAIR

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: <i>Adesuwa Omoregie, Interim Director of Legal and Governance and Cecillie Booth, Executive Director of Corporate Services</i>	Deadline date: 1 November 2023
<p>It is recommended that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve the appointment of Daniel Schumann to the position of Independent Audit Committee Chair for a period of four years until September 2027. 	

1. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for Full Council to approve the appointment of Daniel Schumann to the position of Independent Audit Committee Chair.
- This report is being presented to Full Council as the final approval for the appointment following the resignation of the previous Chair.

2. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 Full Council will be aware that the previous Independent Audit Committee Chair resigned from the position at the end of June 2023.
- 2.2 The Council conducted a first round of external advertising for the position, this ran for three weeks from end of June to mid-July. Advertising for the post was made on the Peterborough Chamber of Commerce website as well as national media, including the Financial Times and Guardian.
- Unfortunately, no suitable candidates were sourced. The meeting in July was chaired by one of the other Independent Members and the meeting in September was chaired by the Vice-Chair, Councillor Haseeb.
- 2.3 A second, more targeted recruitment drive was undertaken during August to which more applicants came forward. This included posts from the Council's communications team on LinkedIn and reaching out to local businesses.

Following shortlisting it was felt that only one candidate was suitable who was interviewed on Friday 6 October 2023.

- 2.4 It was felt that Daniel Schumann presented the right skills to chair the Audit Committee. Full Council is therefore being asked to approve the appointment of Daniel Schumann to the post of Independent Audit Committee Chair. A short background can be found below:

Daniel is a Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Cambridgeshire and founder and Chairman of Trustees for Viva Arts and Community Group. Viva is a Queen's Award-winning arts charity with a 25-year track record of excellence. Over the years Daniel has raised over £4 million for Viva including the funding to build East Cambridgeshire's only purpose-built theatre. Daniel has also served as a Town Councillor, Vice Chairman of East Cambridgeshire District Council Audit Committee, Vice Chairman of East Cambridgeshire District Council and a County Councillor. In 2005 Daniel became the youngest ever magistrate to be appointed to the Cambridge Bench and served as a magistrate for 7 years. In 2004 Daniel was appointed a Fellow of The Royal Society of the Arts, and in 2008 was entered into the 'Who's Who' of Britain's Business Elite. Daniel was also a member of the Arts Council Area Council for the South-East and has previously served as a trustee for Arts Development in East Cambridgeshire, Cambridgeshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services and Ely Soham and District Community Transport. Daniel is also a full member of the Chartered Institute of Fundraising.

Daniel does all of this while also maintaining and developing a very successful career as a theatre producer. In 2012 Daniel received a prestigious Society of London Theatre new Producer Bursary and used the money to commission a stage adaptation of the hit film 'Ladies in Lavender'. He then toured the production around the UK with Hayley Mills in the lead; and the production won 5 Broadway World Awards. Daniel then produced 'Bully Boy' starring Anthony Andrews, which was the opening production of the new St James Theatre in London. Other productions include a UK Tour of 'Duet for One' (starring Belinda Lang), the west end production of 'Quiz' by James Graham, 'Hamlet' and 'Oresteia' in New York and the UK tour of 'Rebus: Long Shadows' by Ian Rankin. Daniel continues to produce in London, across the UK and in Australia and New York.

Currently Daniel is Creative Director for a major arts venue in Suffolk.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 3.1 This recommendation is key in helping the Council deliver on all its corporate priorities. The appointment of Independent Audit Committee Chair will enable the Council to demonstrate scrutiny of all its key services, including all those outlined below:

1. The Economy & Inclusive Growth
 - Environment
 - Homes and Workplaces
 - Jobs and Money
2. Our Places & Communities
 - Places and Safety (including any rural implications)
 - Lives and Work
 - Health and Wellbeing
3. Prevention, Independence & Resilience
 - Educations and Skills for All
 - Adults
 - Children
4. Sustainable Future City Council
 - How we Work
 - How we Serve
 - How we Enable

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Consultation on the proposals have been discussed at the Corporate Leadership Team, Financial Sustainability Working Group, Group Leaders and the Improvement Panel. All parties have recognised the importance of having an Independent Chair for the Audit Committee.

5. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 5.1 The post is subject to a £3,000 honorarium per annum.

Legal Implications

- 5.2 Under the Terms of Reference of the Council's Audit Committee, the Committee is to be chaired by an Independent Member. The appointment of Independent Members of the Committee is a decision reserved to Full Council.

Equalities Implications

- 5.3 There are none.

6. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 6.1 Full Council report 16 December 2023

7. APPENDICES

- 7.1 None.

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