

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA



Meeting of Council

To be held at the

Civic Centre

511 Burwood Highway

Wantirna South

On

Monday 22 May 2023 at 7:00 PM

This meeting will be conducted as a hybrid meeting

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9.1 Audit and Risk Committee - Independent Member Appointment3

Bruce Dobson
Chief Executive Officer

9 Supplementary Items

9.1 Audit and Risk Committee - Independent Member Appointment

SUMMARY: Manager Governance & Risk, Andrew Dowling

This report considers the outcome of the recruitment process for an Independent Member to the Audit and Risk Committee, and recommends the appointment of the preferred candidate in accordance with the Audit and Risk Committee's Charter.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolve to:

- 1. Appoint the preferred candidate as set out in Confidential Attachment 1, to the Audit and Risk Committee for the period 23 May 2023 to 31 May 2026, in accordance with the Audit and Risk Committee Charter.**
- 2. Acknowledge and thank Ms Lisa Tripodi for her contribution to Knox over the past 6 years as an Independent Member and Chair of the Knox Audit and Risk Committee.**

1. INTRODUCTION

Knox City Council's Audit and Risk Committee (the Committee) is an independent Advisory Committee, established under section 53 of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) and operates in accordance with the Audit and Risk Committee Charter – February 2023 (The Charter).

The Charter provides that membership shall comprise three (3) Independent Members and two Councillors appointed by Council with:

- Councillor members appointed annually in November concurrently with the annual Mayoral elections (the current members are the Mayor, Councillor Marcia Timmers-Leitch and Cr Susan Laukens).
- Independent Members appointed for three-year terms. At the conclusion of their first term, Independent Members may be reappointed for one additional three-year term subject to satisfactory performance, to a maximum of six years' service in total.

Independent Members are:

- Mr Geoff Harry - appointed in November 2020 and Independent Chairperson for 2023/24.
- Mr Homi Burjorjee - re-appointed for a second term in July 2022.
- Ms Lisa Tripodi – second term expires on 31 May 2023 following re-appointment in April 2020.

A 'Recruitment and Selection Panel' was established in accordance with the Charter comprising Mayor Timmers-Leitch, Cr Susan Laukens, Independent Chairperson Mr Geoff Harry, and the Chief Executive Officer Bruce Dobson, to recommend the preferred appointment to Council for consideration. The Recruitment and Selection Panel was chaired by Mr Geoff Harry.

2. DISCUSSION

The vacancy on the Committee was advertised on Council's Jobs portal and via:

- Australian Institute of Company Directors; and
- Linked In.

Applications were required to address the following selection criteria:

- Have experience working in a complex organisation at a senior level. Prior experience on an Audit and Risk Committee in a local government environment would also be advantageous.
- Have relevant professional qualifications and experience, for example in business management, finance, accounting, legal, risk management, or audit and compliance. Organisational performance, and/or business transformation experience is also highly regarded.
- Be familiar with governance and operations in Victorian Local Government, the current and emerging risks, and control strategies relevant to the sector.
- Be able to provide external insight from beyond local government in relation to the audit function and risk and compliance management.
- Have strong ethical values, sense of integrity.
- Have strong interpersonal and communication skills including capacity for constructive enquiry and an ability to provide Councillors, the Chief Executive Officer and Management with well-rounded and professional advice concerning the adequacy of Council's administrative, operational, financial and accounting systems, practices and controls; performance reporting regimes; and risk management processes.
- Be able to attend meetings in person at Council's Civic Centre (Wantirna South, Victoria).

The Charter provides that Independent Members of the Committee must collectively have expertise in financial management, risk management and experience in public sector management. Advertising noted the selection of the successful applicant would also have regard to this objective.

A total of 57 applications were received and included a significant number of very high calibre applicants. The Recruitment and Selection Panel reviewed the applications, and four applicants were shortlisted for interview.

Following the evaluation and interview process, the Recruitment and Selection Panel have identified a recommended candidate for appointment as the Independent Member. The candidate's application is included in Confidential Attachment 1.

The recommended candidate has relevant qualifications and significant executive experience in local government, and experience on several Audit and Risk Committees for comparable Local Governments, in addition to private and not-for-profit board and committee experience and is considered a strong cultural fit for the Committee.

3. CONSULTATION

Not applicable.

4. CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS

Implementation of the recommendation is considered to have no direct implications or has no direct impacts upon Council's Net Zero 2030 target, the Community Net Zero 2040, exposure to climate risks or climate change adaptation.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL/AMENITY CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable.

6. FINANCIAL & ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Independent Members of Council's Audit and Risk Committee currently receive an annual remuneration of \$8,098.32, indexed annually in July by the Consumer Price Index which is provided for in the operational budget of the Governance and Risk Department. Other direct costs associated with the recruitment are limited to advertising costs of approximately \$2000.

7. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

8. RELEVANCE TO KNOX COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025

Civic Engagement & Integrity

Strategy 5.3 - Ensure our processes are transparent and decisions are accountable.

9. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The officers contributing to and responsible for this report have no conflicts of interest requiring disclosure under Chapter 5 of the Governance Rules of Knox City Council. Members of the Recruitment and Selection Panel were required to consider and disclose conflicts of interest and no conflicts were declared. A number of panel members disclosed that some candidates were known to them, as they had previously worked, or served on Committees with them, noting that their associations were purely professional, and the disclosures were consequently made in the interests of transparency and good governance.

10. CONFIDENTIALITY

Attachment 1 is included in the confidential agenda, as it contains confidential information pursuant to Council's Governance Rules and Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to: personal information, names, addresses and other personal and professional information regarding prospective committee members which would be unreasonable to disclose publicly, or to disclosure before they are appointed.

Report Prepared By: Manager Governance & Risk, Andrew Dowling

Report Authorised By: Director, Customer & Performance, Greg Curcio

Attachments

Nil