

COUNCIL
THURSDAY 8 OCTOBER 2026

PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

TITLE OF REPORT: APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE, MEMBER AND VICE CHAIR OF THE FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

REPORT OF: Director - Governance

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: N/A

COUNCIL PRIORITY: All Priorities

1.	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
1.1	To confirm the appointments of a new/replacement Member and Substitute Member to the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.
1.2	To appoint a Vice Chair of Finance, Audit and Risk Committee for the remainder of the civic year, 2026-2027.
2.	RECOMMENDATIONS
2.1.	That for the remainder of the civic year 2026-2027 the following Member and Substitute be appointed to the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee: Councillor Elizabeth Dennis to become a Member of the Committee; and Councillor Nigel Mason to become a Substitute Member of the Committee
2.2.	That Councillor Stewart Willoughby be appointed as the Vice Chair of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee for the remainder of the civic year, 2026-2027.
3.	REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS
3.1.	To comply with the provisions of 4.8.1 (a) (viii) and (ix) of the Council's Constitution following Councillor Sarah Lucas resigning as Vice Chair and from the Committee.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1. That the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee operates without a Vice Chair to preside in the Chair's absence, if present, and that a Chair is elected for that meeting only.
- 4.2. The option is not recommended as the efficient conduct of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee requires significant coordination between officers and the Chair/Vice Chair, particularly approaching a time where the Committee is required to consider the budget implications and make recommendations to the Cabinet.

5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

- 5.1. The vacancies are within the Labour and Cooperative Group therefore the Leader of the Council has given consideration and made nominations to the vacant positions.

6. FORWARD PLAN

- 6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key Executive decision and has therefore not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1. Following notification on 9 September 2026 that Councillor Sarah Lucas, who was Vice Chair of Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, has resigned from this position as well as from the Committee.
- 7.2. There was an existing Labour and Cooperative Group vacancy on this Committee following the resignation of Councillor Alistair Willoughby in June 2026.
- 7.3. Based on the current recommendations there remains one Labour and Cooperative Group vacancy on this Committee.
- 7.4. As detailed in paragraph 5.1, all vacancies are within the Labour and Cooperative Group and it is therefore a matter for the respective Group Leader to consider and make nominations to vacant positions from within the party.

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1. The Director Governance and Democratic Services Manager, by way of sub delegation, can make in year changes to the membership of Committees (not Chair or Vice Chair). However, for completeness the changes to the membership, substitutes, and Vice Chair of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee have been contained within this report

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. The legal and constitutional requirements are set out in the main body of this report.
- 9.2. 14.6.9 (a) Delegation of Authority – Director: Governance of the Constitution states:

(xix) To make appointments (or where relevant nominate) Councillors or Substitutes to Committees, Sub-Committees, panels, boards and outside bodies, in consultation with Group Leaders during the civic year in respect of the appointments that have previously been made at Annual Council.
- 9.3. Sub delegation to Democratic Services Manager under 1.14.1 of officer's delegations:

e) The appointment, nomination or revocation of appointment of any individual to any office/ body other than to Full Council in the event of vacation of office, in consultation with Group Leaders in respect of elected Councillors (In accordance with any requirements under the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups)

Regulations 1990, or any legislation replacing the same under section 14.5.1 of the Constitution.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1. Good Risk Management supports and enhances the decision-making process, increasing the likelihood of the Council meeting its objectives and enabling it to respond quickly and effectively to change. When taking decisions, risks and opportunities must be considered.
- 11.2. The efficient conduct of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee requires significant coordination between Officers and the Chair/Vice Chair. The Vice Chair automatically presides in the absence of the Chair. It would create difficulties to adequately prepare for meetings in the absence of a consistent elected Vice Chair, particularly given that the Committee consider budget implications and makes recommendations to Cabinet, and will soon be considering the budget, prior to Council approval.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1. In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 12.2. There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1. The Social Value Act and “go local” requirements do not apply to this report.

14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1. There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 15.1. There are no human resource implications arising from this report.

16. APPENDICES

- 16.1. None.

17. CONTACT OFFICERS

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18. BACKGROUND PAPERS

18.1. None.