Date: 30 June 2017
Subject: Appointment of Independent Members to the GMCA’s Audit Committee
Report of: Councillor Kieran Quinn, Portfolio lead for Finance & Investment Richard Paver, GMCA Treasurer

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report updates the GMCA on progress with the appointment process of independent members to the GMCA’s Audit Committee and proposes that the GMCA appoint two independent members to the Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The GMCA are asked to:

- Agree the appointment of Gwyn Griffiths and Catherine Scivier as independent members of the GMCA’s Audit Committee.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS:
GMCA AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE 2017-18 - see https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/2020/8_membership_of_the_gmca_audit_committee
1. **BACKGROUND**

1.1 In April 2017 the Joint meeting of the GMCA and AGMA Executive Board were informed of the need to update the GMCA’s Audit Committee membership in light of the new legislative requirements for audit committees of combined authorities set out in the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016 and Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2017.

1.2 The Order specifies that the GMCA’s Audit Committee must appoint at least one independent person. In April the GMCA and AGMA Joint meeting agreed that it may choose to appoint either one OR two independent members to the Audit Committee. This flexibility will ensure that Committee members will have an appropriate skills mix to allow the effective delivery of the Committee’s expanded role following transition.

1.3 Legislation requires that before an independent person appointment can be made the vacancy has to be publicly advertised; applicants have to formally apply to fill the vacancy, and their appointment has been approved by a majority of the members of the GMCA.

2. **APPOINTMENT PROCESS**

2.1 The vacancies for Independent Members of the GMCA Audit Committee were advertised on the Greater Jobs website. Six applications were received and telephone interviews were held with five applicants. Following a discussion with the GMCA’s portfolio holder for Finance and Investment it is recommended that the GMCA agrees the appointment of Catherine Scivier and Gwyn Griffiths as independent members of the GMCA’s Audit Committee for a term of three years.

3. **BRIEF BACKGROUND OF RECOMMENDED APPLICANTS**

3.1 **Catherine Scivier:** Catherine has a background in Human Resources and operational management in health and academia and is a voluntary non-executive director with local and national charities. She was formerly the Chief Operating Officer (and in this role acted as company secretary) for the Institute of Cancer Research and she is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development.

3.2 **Gwyn Griffiths:** Gwyn has a background in accountancy. He is a former partner in Deloittes (National Quality and Risk Management) and is a member of the professional committee of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and is chair of its data protection group working party. He has experience of both internal and external roles in the public sector.

4. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 See front of the report.