

### 3.3 APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER TO THE AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

Report from Audit and Risk Committee Chair (Independent member recruitment panel chair)

**RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council:*

- 1. Endorses the appointment of Ms Binda Gokhale as an independent member of the Audit and Risk Committee for a period of three years ending 30 June 2026; and*
- 2. Notes that all other applicants will be advised of Council's decision and thanked for their interest in the position.*

**BACKGROUND**

The Audit and Risk Committee (A&RC) is formally appointed by the Council to ensure effective communication between the Council's external auditor, internal audit, Management and the Council. The A&RC consists of five members: two Councillors and three independent members. Councillor members are appointed annually, and independent members are appointed through a recruitment process for a term of three years (with a maximum of two terms).

Ms Katie Baldwin was appointed as an independent member of the Committee in July 2017 and reappointed in July 2020. As she has served two terms as an independent member, she is required, as per the Committee's Charter, to retire from this role.

**DISCUSSION**

The recruitment and selection process for an independent member of the A&RC has been undertaken through a publicly advertised process. As required under the Audit & Risk Committee Charter the recruitment panel consisted of the two Councillor members of the A&RC: Mayor Tina Samardzija and Councillor Stuart James, and the Committee Chair, Mr Andrew Dix.

Council received over 40 applications of a high standard from a range of highly qualified and experienced people. The recruitment panel reviewed and shortlisted to four applicants based on their relevant experience, qualifications, and suitability to the role. Each of the shortlisted candidates were interviewed by the panel and further assessed against the selection criteria.

All panel members had contributed to the recruitment process, and it reflects the collective agreed views of all panel members.

The recruitment panel noted that in deciding on the shortlist, the panel was focused on ensuring that the successful candidate will bring a diverse and relevant skill set to the A&RC and on avoiding overlap to the extent possible with the skill sets held by the two other independent members. Following its deliberations, the recruitment panel

was unanimous in its decision to recommend Ms Binda Gokhale as the new A&RC independent member. The panel believe that Ms Gokhale's experience and expertise align well with the needs of the committee, and her unique skill set will complement those of the existing members.

***CONCLUSION***

In conclusion, it is recommended that Council supports the recommendation to appoint Ms Binda Gokhale to Council's Audit & Risk Committee for a period of three years commencing 1 July 2023 and concluding on 30 June 2026.

Following adoption of the recommendation by the Council and appointment of the successful candidate, all other applicants will be advised of Council's decision and thanked for their interest in the position.