



**APPOINTMENTS, REMUNERATION AND AUDIT COMMITTEE (ARAC)  
TERMS OF REFERENCE  
[APPROVED BY COUNCIL SEPTEMBER 2018]**

**Membership**

The Committee will consist of all current Officers, i.e. the Immediate Past President, who will act as Chair, the President, the Deputy president, the Vice President and may include one other Council member. Additionally, there may be up to four non-Council members, who need not be members of the ACT.

At least one member of ARAC must be a qualified accountant. Where possible, membership will also include individuals with the following skills and experience:

- HR, recruitment, remuneration and benefits;
- risk management.

Membership should be determined with a view to providing some continuity for the subsequent year. This will be achieved through the involvement of Officers throughout their period of office and with an expectation that other members serve for at least two years, and that their appointments will be staggered.

Membership is subject to the approval of Council and shall be reviewed annually.

The quorum of the committee is three members.

**Secretary**

The ACT's Secretary shall be the Secretary of ARAC. At the discretion of the Chair the Secretary may be asked to remain during a closed session.

**Attendance**

The Chief Executive, CFO and Secretary will normally attend meetings. The Head of HR and Facilities may be invited to attend for items relating to the Chief Executive's appointment and remuneration and the staff bonus scheme. Other members of Council may be invited to attend although this would be by exception.

At least once a year, ARAC will meet with the auditors without members of the Executive present.

Each meeting will include the following closed sessions:

- ARAC and the Chief Executive only;
- ARAC and the Secretary and either the CFO or the Head of HR and Facilities – these sessions will cover matters concerning the Chief Executive's performance review and remuneration.

ARAC may consult with or seek information from individuals invited to attend meetings but all final decisions will rest with the committee.

**Frequency of meetings**

Meetings will normally be held four times a year. Additional meetings may be called as required.

## **Purpose**

ARAC's purpose is divided into the following categories:

- appointments
- remuneration
- audit, risk, and controls and reserves
- investments
- compliance and regulation
- complaints and speaking up.

The Chair of ARAC, with support from the Executive team, will report back on the committee's actions at every Council meeting.

A forward agenda setting out the timing and actions to be taken on an annual basis in respect of ARAC's responsibilities is set out at **Appendix A**.

## **Appointments**

- To consider the appropriate skills set required for individual candidates for Council.
- To consider all eligible elected Council members for appointment as an Officer (usually Vice President). If review results in one candidate for Vice President, ARAC will make a recommendation to Council for that individual to be appointed. If there is more than one suitable candidate, ARAC will recommend Council holds a vote. In the event that any member of ARAC were to be considered for appointment as an Officer, that member would be required to withdraw from all discussions about the appointment.
- Play an active role in the process of encouraging a wider range of candidates for Council election.
- If required, assist in the process of identifying possible panel members.
- Identify and recommend to Council the appointment of the Chief Executive.

## **Remuneration**

- On the recommendation of the President, to approve the remuneration package (salary, pension and bonus) of the Chief Executive whose performance will be reviewed by the President at least every six months.
- The President's written reviews, which should include the setting of and measuring of performance against agreed financial and non-financial objectives aligned to the overall strategy and goals of the ACT, should be copied to the members of ARAC prior to consideration and approval of the Chief Executive's remuneration.
- In the event of issues arising between the President and the Chief Executive which cannot be otherwise resolved, ARAC should act as mediator.
- On a periodic basis and on the recommendation of the Chief Executive, review and approve the staff bonus scheme structure and criteria. On an annual basis and on the recommendation of the Chief Executive, approve the total payment of bonuses arising from the scheme. The amounts paid to individual members of the scheme (with the exception of the Chief Executive's bonus) will be determined by the Chief Executive.

## **Audit, risk, controls and reserves**

- Consider and make recommendations to Council on issues relating to the appointment, fees and any questions of resignations or dismissal of the auditors. Review from time to time the cost effectiveness of the audit and the independence and objectivity of the auditor.
- Discuss and agree with the auditors the scope of the audit.
- Discuss with the auditors any significant issues arising out of the audit and review the auditor's management letter and the Executive's response.

- The Chief Executive is authorised to contract the auditors for non-audit services (e.g tax) up to a maximum fee of £10,000. Any fee proposal for non-audit services in excess of £10,000 will require the consideration and approval of ARAC.
- Receive regular financial and non-financial updates from the Chief Executive including performance against budget and three-year plan. These will be provided for the purposes of context / background and will take the form of pre-read papers and / or ARAC will receive copies when the relevant papers are distributed to Council.
- Review and, if appropriate, recommend to Council the adoption of the annual audited accounts, focussing particularly on:
  - any changes in accounting policies and practice
  - major judgmental areas
  - material adjustments resulting from the audit
  - the going concern assumption
  - compliance with accounting standards and best practice
  - compliance with any regulatory or legal requirements
  - the Report of Council contained within the Annual Report, in particular, the sections on risk and Council's responsibilities for the financial statements.

The recommendation on adoption of the accounts, or otherwise, will take the form of an annual report from the Chair of ARAC to Council.

- Review annually and report back to Council on the ACT's system of internal control. The review should cover internal controls in its broadest sense and not just be limited to financial controls. ARAC should consider whether the controls are adequate, in keeping with best practice and appropriate for the nature and size of the ACT.
- Review regularly the ACT's financial and business risks and the processes to manage such risks. If major risks are identified they should be reported to Council, with an assessment of the implications for the ACT and a recommendation as to the response required.
- Review annually and recommend to Council the ACT's Reserves Policy

#### **Investments**

- Review annually the ACT's Treasury Policy and recommend any amendments to Council.
- Undertake the role of investment committee as set out in the Treasury Policy.

#### **Compliance and regulation**

- Review and consider the adequacy of the ACT's compliance with data protection regulations.
- From time to time and as appropriate, consider and advise Council on any steps ACT need to take to ensure compliance with other statutory and legal requirements.

#### **Complaints, disclosure and speaking up**

- As required, review the ACT's Speaking-up Policy and recommend any amendments to Council. Such arrangements will be publicised on the ACT's website and elsewhere from time to time, as deemed appropriate by ARAC.
- Deal with any complaints arising that fall to ARAC under the Speaking-up Policy.
- For the purposes of oversight and accountability, ARAC to receive a report of all current and outstanding member disciplinary matters on a no-names basis at each meeting

**Papers and minutes**

Papers will normally be distributed one week in advance of the meeting, and they will be both succinct and clear as to purpose (for discussion/agreement, etc).

Minutes of all meetings shall be prepared and circulated to the committee and members of the Executive in attendance (as appropriate), where possible within one week and in advance of any subsequent Council meeting. Minutes of any closed session meetings should be restricted to attendees only.

The auditors should receive a copy of all relevant sections of the minutes.

Minutes should be circulated to Council after each meeting subject to editing by the Secretary and agreement from the Chair for any matters confidential to ARAC.

If the Secretary is not present for all or any part of a meeting, the Chair shall ensure minutes are prepared.