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| Title of Report: | Request to Change Date of Audit Committee in September 2021, and convene a Special Council Meeting to allow Certification of Accounts |
| Committee Report Submitted To: | Audit Committee |
| Date of Meeting: | 10th March 2021 |
| For Decision or For Information | For Decision |

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| Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23) | |
| Strategic Theme | Leader and Champion |
| Outcome | Establish Key Relationships with Government, Agencies and potential key strategic partners |
| Lead Officer | Director of Corporate Services |

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| Budgetary Considerations | |
| Cost of Proposal | N/A |
| Included in Current Year Estimates | |
| Capital/Revenue | |
| Code | |
| Staffing Costs | |

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| Screening Requirements | Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals. N/A | | |
| Section 75 Screening | Screening Completed: | Yes/No | Date: |
| | EQIA Required and Completed: | Yes/No | Date: |
| Rural Needs Assessment (RNA) | Screening Completed | Yes/No | Date: |
| | RNA Required and Completed: | Yes/No | Date: |
| Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) | Screening Completed: | Yes/No | Date: |

1.1 Introduction

The purpose of this report is to seek approval

- to change the date of the September Audit Committee meeting from Wednesday 8 September 2021 to Thursday 16th September 2021 and
- to convene a Special Council Meeting on Monday 20th September 2021 to approve the Year-End accounts.

This will allow NIAO time to finalise the 2020/21 audit and issue the Report to those charged with Governance.

1.2 Background

Council previously agreed a Schedule of Meetings on 22nd September 2020, with Quarterly Audit Committee Meetings as follows:-
10 March 2021, 9 June 2021, 8 September 2021 and 8 December 2021.

And Council meetings held on the first Tuesday of every month, so 2nd September and 5th October.

The Year-End Accounts 31st March 2021, will be prepared and submitted to NIAO by 30th June 2021. NIAO plan to complete the Audit field work by end of August 2021, and will require time thereafter to finalise reports. The Accounts need to be presented to Audit Committee, require approval by Council, and returned to NIAO to allow time for the signed accounts to be certified by 30th September.

A NIAO pre-planning meeting was held on 8th February, where the timetable was discussed. The September Council meeting is due to be held on Tuesday 2nd September, and the Audit Committee is scheduled for Wednesday 8th September. The Audit will not be complete prior to Tuesday 2nd September, and the papers may not be ready for Audit Committee on Wednesday 8th September.

1.3 Recommendation

- that the date of the September Audit Committee meeting is changed from 8 September to 16 September 2021 and
- to convene a Special Council Meeting on Monday 20th September 2021 to approve the Year-End accounts

to comply with the legislative timetable for producing, publishing and certifying the audited financial statements.