

Audit Committee

21 February 2013

Co-opted Members to the Audit Committee



Don McLure, Corporate Director Resources

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek the views of members on the appointment of co-opted Members to the Audit Committee and make recommendations to Council.

Background

2. On 10 December 2007 the Audit Committee agreed to appoint 2 co-opted non-voting members to the Audit Committee for a three year fixed contract. The co-options accorded with CIPFA's "Audit Committees: practical guidance for local authorities".
3. Following an advert in the press inviting applications, prospective candidates were interviewed on 28 February 2008 and two co-opted Members were appointed.
4. Their appointments were due to expire on 28 February 2011, and the Audit Committee agreed on 6 January 2011 to make recommendations to Council to re-appoint the two existing co-opted members until May 2013. The Council agreed to the committee's recommendation.
5. The views of the Committee are sought on whether to recommend that the Council extend further their fixed term contracts, and if so for how long, or whether to place an advert in the local press and seek applications. There is nothing in the Council's guidance to indicate that existing members could not be re-appointed.
6. If the Committee was minded to seek new applications it is suggested that a process be recommended to the Council whereby an advert be placed in the press, and that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be authorised to draw up a short-list in consultation with the Corporate Director, Resources, the Head of Internal Audit, and Head of Legal and Democratic Services; with selected applicants to be interviewed by the Audit Committee.

Recommendation

7. That the Committee request that Council either:-
 - (i) Agree to make new appointments, advertise the posts, and delegate the appointments to the Audit Committee, or
 - (ii) Extend the appointment of the current co-opted members until a fixed date.

Contact: Ros Layfield Tel: 03000 269 708

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance-

Travelling and subsistence costs of the successful applicants in attending meetings/ training events of the Audit Committee, plus advertising and printing costs can be met from within existing budgets.

Staffing-

None

Risk-

None

Equality and Diversity/ Public Sector Equality Duty-

A recruitment process would be carried out in accordance with the Council's recruitment procedure.

Accommodation-

None

Crime and disorder-

None

Human rights-

None

Risk-

None

Consultation- Risk-

None

Procurement- Risk-

None

Disability Issues-

A recruitment process would be carried out in accordance with the Council's recruitment procedure.

Legal Implications-

None