

County Council

31 October 2018

Co-opted Members to the Audit Committee



Report of John Hewitt, Corporate Director of Resources

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To seek Council approval on the appointment of co-opted Members to the Audit Committee.

Background

- 2 On 10 December 2007 the Audit Committee agreed to appoint two 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". Following an advert in the press inviting applications, prospective candidates were interviewed, and two co-opted Members were appointed. Their appointments were due to expire on 28 February 2011, however Council agreed extensions to their contracts until 30 April 2016.
- 3 In accordance with the authority granted by full council on 24 February 2016 two new co-opted members to the Audit Committee were appointed for a three year term ending on 30 April 2019. During this period one of the co-opted members resigned and following a recruitment exercise a new co-opted member was appointed for the remainder of the term, whose appointment commenced in May 2018.
- 4 The appointments of both are due to expire on 30 April 2019, and it is for Council to determine whether to extend the fixed term contracts, and if so for how long, or whether to place an advert in the local press and seek new applications. There is nothing in the Council's guidance to indicate that existing members could not be re-appointed.
- 5 Whether Council agree to re-appoint the existing two co-opted members or undertake new appointments, it is suggested that the members be appointed for a four-year term expiring on 30 April 2023. This would refresh the co-opted members' mid-term of the four-year term of office of the council's elected members, and therefore provide continuity on the Committee.
- 6 If the Council was minded to seek new applications it is suggested that an advert be made in the local press and on the council's website to

seek candidates to fill the two positions, and for the appointments to be made by the Corporate Director, Resources in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Audit Committee.

- 7 For any vacancies arising within the agreed term of office, appointments would be made through the same procedure as outlined in paragraph 6.
- 8 The Audit Committee met on 28 September 2018, and agreed to recommend that Council extend the fixed term contracts of the two co-opted members for a four-year period.

Recommendation

- 9 That Council either:-
 - (a) In line with the Audit Committee's recommendation extend the appointment of the current co-opted members until 30 April 2023.or:-
 - (b) Agree to make new appointments in accordance with the process as set out in paragraph 6, and determine their length of office with a suggestion that this be until 30 April 2023.

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

Consultation-

As detailed in the report

Procurement-

None

Disability Issues-

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

Legal Implications-

None