

North Yorkshire County Council

Audit Committee

19 April 2012

Henry Cronin's Membership of the Committee

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)

1.0 Purpose of the Report
1.1 To invite the Committee to consider recommending, to the County Council, the reappointment of Henry Cronin as a non-voting External Member of this Committee, to serve for the remaining life of the County Council plus up to a further 12 months.

2.0 Background

2.1 The County Council, on 19 May 2010, appointed Henry Cronin to serve on this Committee as a non-voting External Member representative from the Standards Committee, to serve for the remaining life of the County Council plus up to a further 12 months, subject to him continuing as an Independent Member of the Standards Committee.

2.2 The County Council's existing Standards Committee will be disestablished shortly on implementation of the Localism Act 2011. Henry Cronin's membership of the Audit Committee will therefore terminate at the same time as the disestablishment of the Standards Committee.

3.0 Issue for Consideration

3.1 Henry Cronin, since his appointment to the Audit Committee, has gained experience of the Committee's work and has made a valuable contribution. In view of his experience, the Committee is invited to consider requesting that Henry Cronin be reappointed to the Audit Committee, to serve for the remaining life of the County Council plus up to a further 12 months. This would ensure additional continuity of expertise beyond the establishment of the new Council. If approved, Henry Cronin's membership would consequently conclude at the same time as the memberships of the other two non-voting External Members on the Committee.

3.2 It is understood that Henry Cronin would be willing to accept reappointment, if this was offered.

- 3.3 As at today's meeting, the County Council has not made a decision on whether it will establish a voluntary Standards Committee under the new Standards regime and, if it does have such a Committee, whether its membership will include one or more Independent Persons as Co-opted Members of that Committee. However, it is known that any voluntary Standards Committee cannot be chaired by an Independent Person. In the circumstances, it is suggested that this Committee should ask the County Council to remove the existing provision (agreed by the County Council on 16 December 2009) that one of the three seats for Independent Members on the Audit Committee should be for a Member of the Standards Committee, preferably the Chairman, but not a County Councillor. This issue can be reconsidered at a future meeting of this Committee once the composition of any voluntary Standards Committee which might be established is known.

4.0 Recommendation

- 4.1 The Committee is asked whether it wishes to submit a recommendation to the County Council, requesting the reappointment of Henry Cronin as a non-voting External Member of the Audit Committee, to serve for the remaining life of the County Council plus up to a further 12 months.
- 4.2 The Committee is asked to recommend to the County Council that the existing provision (approved by the County Council on 16 December 2009), that one of the three seats for Independent Members on the Audit Committee should be for a Member of the Standards Committee, preferably the Chairman, but not a County Councillor, be removed.

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11 April 2012
RAG/ALJ

Background Documents: Minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 19 May 2010.