

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****AUDIT COMMITTEE****4 December 2014****Appointment of External Members****Report of the Chairman of Audit Committee****1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To submit, for the Committee's formal approval, the recommendation of the Panel of Members which interviewed candidates shortlisted for appointment as External Members of this Committee.

**2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The Committee's current membership includes provision for three non-voting External Members. The term of appointment of the former External Members expired earlier this year.
- 2.2 The Committee, on 6 March 2014, agreed arrangements for the recruitment and selection of External Members of the Audit Committee to serve from the latter half of 2014.
- 2.3 The Committee agreed to undertake a joint recruitment with the City of York Council which was also seeking to recruit External Members of its Audit Committee. It was not envisaged that both Audit Committees would share an External Member – rather that each would make its own appointments, although that would not preclude each Audit Committee separately appointing the same person.
- 2.4 It was proposed that at least two, and up to three, External Members should be recruited and appointed to this Committee. It was felt that that would provide a degree of flexibility in the event that there was a good skills mix from those who were interested in carrying out the role. It was noted that experience over the previous eighteen months suggested that the Audit Committee could remain effective with two External Members where they were regular attendees and active participants.

**3.0 Action Taken**

- 3.1 Under powers delegated by this Committee on 6 March 2014:-
- (a) An advert, job description/person specification, and a set of background information to assist potential candidates to determine if they were interested, were prepared and agreed following consultation with me as Chairman.
- (b) The Corporate Director - Strategic Resources, in consultation with both me and the Vice-Chairman, undertook the short-listing of applicants from amongst those who submitted an application. Three candidates were invited for interview. Only two candidates attended interview.

- (c) A Panel of Members, appointed by this Committee, conducted interviews of shortlisted candidates. The Committee, on 6 March 2014, authorised the Panel to submit recommendations to the Committee for the appointment of External Members. Those recommendations are now presented to the Committee for formal approval and are set out at section 5.0 of this report.

#### **4.0 Proposed Term of New Appointments**

- 4.1 Repeating previous arrangements, it is recommended that the term of the new appointments should be for the remainder of the life of the current County Council plus up to a further 12 months in order to allow for a “new” Audit Committee, following the 2017 County Council elections, to appoint new External Members.

#### **5.0 Recommendations**

- 5.1 That the under-mentioned two persons (listed in alphabetical order by surname) be appointed as non-voting External Members of Audit Committee, to serve for the remaining life of the County Council plus up to a further 12 months:-

David Marsh  
David Portlock

- 5.2 That no action be taken, at this time, to recruit to the third seat of External Member on Audit Committee.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR ANDREW BACKHOUSE  
Chairman  
Audit Committee

County Hall  
Northallerton

24 November 2014

Background documents: Minutes and reports to Audit Committee’s meeting held on 6 March 2014