

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**NORTH YORKSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

**17 FEBRUARY, 2005**

**MEMBERSHIP OF THE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform Members of the Forum of forthcoming vacancies amongst its Membership and to seek views on arrangements for filling those vacancies.

**2.0 TERMS OF OFFICE**

- 2.1 Members may recall that, at the first meeting of the Forum, lots were drawn to decide which Members of the Forum would retire at the end of each of the following three years, in order to establish a "rolling Membership" of the Forum. Because the term of office of the three County Councillors on the Forum would come to an end, as Councillors this year, because of the County Council elections, it was agreed that their term of office on the Forum should conclude this year. The other Members of the Forum who drew lots for a term of office to conclude this year were Edward Dennison, Alison Fuller, Nigel Graham and Rodney Waddilove. At the first meeting of the Forum terms of office were fixed to conclude on 3 April.

**3.0 APPOINTMENTS MECHANISM**

- 2.1 The appointment (or re-appointment) of three County Councillors to the Forum, who serve as representatives of the "other" interest group, will take place following the County Council elections. Such appointments are made by the Executive which is scheduled to meet on the 24 May and then 14 June. I would anticipate new appointments being made at one of those two meetings.
- 3.2 All retiring Members can apply to be re-appointed to the Forum, if they so wish, but County Councillor Members will, of course, need to be re-elected as Councillors and, for other vacancies on the Forum some selection process needs to be put in place. The appointing Authority, the County Council, has authorised me, Head of Committee Services, to make appointments of non County Councillors to the Forum on the recommendation of the Members of the County Council's Appointments Panel, which is those County Councillors who serve on the Forum.

**4.0 ADVERTISEMENT/SELECTION PROCESS**

- 4.1 The Local Access Forums (England) Regulations 2002 state:-
- 4(5) ... Before appointing any Member the appointing Authority shall –
- (a) Advertise the vacancy –
    - (i) In such local or regional newspapers circulating in the Authority's area as they consider appropriate, and
    - (ii) If they maintain a website on the internet, on such a website, and
  - (b) Consult such persons as they consider appropriate.
- 4.1 Members of the Forum will be familiar with the selection/interview process which has

been carried out in 2003 and 2004 following the receipt of applications. I would be very interested to receive the views of Members of the Forum

- on whether advertisements in local newspapers are likely to attract expressions of interest from people wishing to serve on the Forum, or whether the main effort should be directed towards contacting appropriate interest groups and, perhaps, former Members of, or applicants to be Members of, the Forum.
- on whether the selection procedure which has been adopted in the past, which is costly and time consuming, is the most appropriate mechanism to continue to use in the future.
- on whether the terms of office of the retiring Forum Members should be extended up to 28 April, which would reduce the length of time the Forum is without County Councillor Members, as those appointments, or re-appointments, will need to be made following the elections, but would also allow the appointments or re-appointments of other Members of the Forum then to align with the appointments made on 28 April, last year.

**5.0 RECOMMENDATION**

5.1 That Members of the Forum express any views they may have on the arrangements for advertising and subsequently filling forthcoming vacancies on the Local Access Forum and whether they believe there would be merit in extending the term of office of Members retiring, this year, to 28 April, 2005.

STEPHEN KNIGHT  
Secretary to the North Yorkshire Local Access Forum

County Hall  
NORTHALLERTON

9 February, 2005

Background documents: None.