

**To the Chair and Members of the
COUNCIL**

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

1. The purpose of this report is to seek authority for the appointment of an independent member to the Audit Committee.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. No.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. Council is recommended:-
 - (i) to agree the appointment of an independent member of the Audit Committee as recommended by a selection panel, (to be notified at the meeting), for an initial term of office expiring in May 2018.
 - (ii) to note that the Independent Remuneration Panel will meet to consider the level of allowance to be paid for this position and submit a recommendation to the next Council meeting.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

4. The appointment of a co-opted member to the Audit Committee is not a statutory requirement. The Council has chosen to appoint an independent member as a means of bringing an independent, objective perspective to the audit and governance work of this Committee.

BACKGROUND

5. At the Annual meeting of Council on 13 June, Council agreed to appoint one co-opted, non-voting, independent member to sit on the Audit Committee. An advertisement was placed on the Council's website inviting applications from the public which resulted in ? applications being received.
6. Interviews were held on 18 September by a panel comprising the Chair of the Audit Committee (Councillor Austin White), Vice – Chair of the Audit Committee (Councillor Richard Jones), the Director of Finance and Corporate Services (Simon Wiles) and Head of Internal Audit (Colin Earl). The recommendation of the Panel as to who should be appointed to this position will be reported at the meeting.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7. (A) Support the recommendations set out at paragraph 3 of this report.
(RECOMMENDED OPTION)
- (B) By not supporting the recommendations set out at paragraph 3 would not be consistent with the decision of Council to appoint an independent member to the Audit Committee

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

8. This is in line with CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) best practice to have an independent person with a financial background and expertise in some area of the roles and responsibilities of an Audit Committee. The person appointed will provide external robust challenge to the work of the committee.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY PRIORITIES

9.

	Priority	Implications
	We will provide strong leadership and governance, working in partnership.	The appointment of an independent member on the Audit Committee will enhance the work of the Committee and bring an external robust challenge to its activities.

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

10. There are no specific risks associated with this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

11. The appointment of a co-opted member to the Audit Committee is not a statutory requirement. The Council has chosen to appoint an independent member as a means of bring an independent, objective perspective to the audit and governance work of this Committee.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

12. The person appointed is expected to receive an allowance for undertaking this role. The level of allowance will be recommended to Council by the Independent Remuneration Panel that is expected to report to the next Council meeting in November. The cost of this allowance will be met from existing budgets.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

13. There are no specific equality implications associated with this report.

CONSULTATION

14. There has been no external consultation on the content of this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

15. Application forms (exempt) - contains information as described in Paragraph 1 (information in relation to an individual) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 act, as amended.

Report to Council 13 June 2014.

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