



Doncaster Council

Report

5th April 2018

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
n/a	n/a	No

To the Chair and Members of the AUDIT COMMITTEE

REAPPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report seeks the Audit Committee's agreement to recommend to the Full Council that it gives approval to re-appoint Kathryn Smart for a further 4 years as the Council's co-opted, non-voting, independent member to sit on the Audit Committee. Kathryn Smart is CIPFA qualified and has extensive experience in finance, audit, assurance, risk management and governance as well as 4 years' experience on this Council's audit committee. Kathryn also holds positions on other audit committees.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. The report does not contain exempt information.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. That the Audit Committee agrees to recommend that Full Council agree the re- appointment of Kathryn Smart as the co-opted, non-voting, independent member to sit on the Audit Committee for a further 4 year period to 31st May 2022.

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. It is, however, 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 areas of the roles and responsibilities of an Audit Committee. The person appointed will provide external robust challenge to the work of the committee which adds value to the Council operations in managing its risks and achieving its key priorities of improving services provided to the citizens of the borough. The work undertaken by the Audit Committee also improves and strengthens governance arrangements within the Council and its partners.

BACKGROUND

5. At the Annual meeting of Council on 13 June 2014, Council agreed to appoint one co-opted, non-voting, independent member to sit on the Audit Committee. Interviews were held on 18 September 2014 by a panel comprising the Chair of the Audit Committee (Council 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 panel recommended Kathryn Smart be appointed to this position.
6. Kathryn Smart's term will expire in May 2018 and following consultation with members of the Audit Committee and Kathryn, it has been proposed to reappoint Kathryn for a further 4 years , to 31st May 2022, as the co-opted, non-voting, independent member to sit on the Audit Committee.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REASON FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

7. Kathryn Smart's term will expire in May 2018. The Council can either carry out another recruitment process for a co-opted, non-voting independent member to sit on the audit committee, or it can re-appoint Kathryn Smart for a further term.
8. Kathryn Smart has a wealth of experience and knowledge on finance and governance matters, and has performed the role of co-opted, non-voting independent member diligently. Following consultation with members of the Audit Committee and Kathryn, it has been proposed to reappoint Kathryn for a further 4 years , to 31st May 2022, as the co-opted, non-voting, independent member to sit on the Audit Committee. Members of the Audit Committee have confirmed they would welcome Kathryn to continue in this role and Kathryn has confirmed that she is happy to continue undertaking this role.
9. It is therefore proposed that she be re-appointed for a further 4 years, to 31st May 2022.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

13.

	Outcomes	Implications
	<p>Doncaster Working: Our vision is for more people to be able to pursue their ambitions through work that gives them and Doncaster a brighter and prosperous future;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better access to good fulfilling work • Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish • Inward Investment 	
	<p>Doncaster Living: Our vision is for Doncaster's people to live in a borough that is vibrant and full of opportunity, where people enjoy spending time;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster • More people can live in a good quality, affordable home • Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport • Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean • Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage 	
	<p>Doncaster Learning: Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that is fulfilling;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school • Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better • Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work 	

	<p>Doncaster Caring: Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children have the best start in life • Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust • Older people can live well and independently in their own homes 	
	<p>Connected Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A modern, efficient and flexible workforce • Modern, accessible customer interactions • Operating within our resources and delivering value for money • A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents • Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths • Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance 	<p>The reappointment of a co-opted, non-voting, independent member to sit on the Audit Committee will enhance the work of the Committee and bring an external robust challenge to its activities.</p> <p>Effective oversight through the Audit Committee adds value to the Council operations in managing its risks and achieving its key priorities of improving services provided to the citizens of the borough</p> <p>The work undertaken by the Audit Committee improves and strengthens governance arrangements within the Council and its partners.</p>

RISKS & ASSUMPTIONS

14. There are no identified risks associated with this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (HMP, 13/03/18)

15. The appointment of a co-opted member to the Audit Committee is not a statutory requirement. The Council has chosen to appoint a co-opted, non-voting independent member as a means of bringing an independent, objective perspective to the audit and governance work of this Committee which is in line with CIPFA guidance.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (AT, 13/03/18)

16. A co-optees' allowance of £618 per annum is currently payable to any co-opted member sitting on the Council's Committees in accordance with the Members'

Allowance Scheme. This is met from existing provision in the Members' Allowances budget.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (MLV, 14/03/18)

17. The individual referred to in this report is not being appointed as an employee of the council therefore there are no specific human resources implications related to the content of this report.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS (PW, 12/3/18)

18. There are no technology implications associated with this report.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

19. We are aware of the Council's obligations under the Public Sector Equalities Duties and there are no identified equal opportunity issues within this report

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS (RS, 13/02/2018)

20. There is no direct health implication of this report. The health implications rest with the service areas to be audited as part of Internal Audit Plan 2018/19.

CONSULTATION

21. The re-appointment of the Independent Member is proposed following consultation with members of the Audit Committee and with the existing appointee.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

22. None

REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS

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