

Report to Audit and Governance Committee



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Report reference: AGC-016-2014/15
Date of meeting: 24 November 2014

Portfolio: Governance & Development Management

Subject: Appointment of Co-opted Member

Responsible Officer: Colleen O'Boyle (01992 564475)

Democratic Services: Gary Woodhall (01992 564470)

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

(1) That a report be submitted to Council recommending as follows:

(a) That a Panel of three Councillors be appointed, including the Chairman of Audit & Governance, with delegated authority to undertake the interviews following public advertisement and to appoint the preferred candidate for the vacant co-opted member position on the Audit & Governance Committee;

(b) That pro rata rules not apply and that nominations be sought from the remaining Group Leaders to serve on the Panel with the Chairman of Audit & Governance;

(c) That Mr. Rob Thompson be invited to attend the interviews in an advisory, non –voting capacity; and

(d) That appreciation of the contribution of Mr. Rob Thompson as a co-opted Member of the Audit & Governance Committee over a 6 year period be formally recorded

Executive Summary

This report deals with the process of filling a vacancy for a co- opted member arising from the resignation of Rob Thompson following two terms, totaling six years, on this Committee. The final term expires on the 9 February 2015.

It is the case that Rob Thompson had indicated his preference to leave at the end of September but would continue to attend to allow an appointment process to be undertaken. It is unfortunate that this process has not started sooner and his cooperation is much appreciated. This report if agreed would be made to Council on the 16 December with an appointment by late January 2015.

Reason for Proposed decision

To appoint to the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Rob Thompson who has served two terms on the Committee and is not seeking a further term.

Report

1. As recently as June 2013 this Committee considered the application of Article 11 of the Council's Constitution relating to the Audit and Governance Committee and agreed procedures to recruit an independent Member.

2. It is suggested that this Committee recommend to Council that the same principles and processes apply in light of its demonstrable success. The suggested recommendations below reflect this.

3. The advertisement and targeting of the publicity will again include print, on line and social media in order to maximize and engage with the widest range of potential applicants.

4. It is therefore suggested that the following recommendations be made in a report to Council:

(a) That a Panel of three Councillors be appointed, including the Chairman of Audit & Governance, with delegated authority to undertake the interviews following public advertisement and to appoint the preferred candidate for the vacant co-opted member position on the Audit & Governance Committee;

(b) That pro rata rules not apply and that nominations be sought from the remaining Group Leaders to serve on the Panel with the Chairman of Audit & Governance; and

(c) That Mr. Rob Thompson be invited to attend the interviews in an advisory, non-voting capacity.

5. It is further suggested that it is both customary and entirely appropriate that the report to Council should make reference to the 6 years' service given by Mr Rob Thompson to the Audit & Governance Committee and that an additional recommendation to the report to reflect this would be appropriate.

6. The Committee is asked to consider the suggested wording of:

(d) That the Council's appreciation of the contribution of Mr Rob Thompson as co-opted member of the Audit & Governance Committee over 6 years be recorded.

7. Officer support to the Panel would be provided by the Director of Governance and appropriate officers within that Directorate. Interviews would be likely in the last week of January with the appointment being reported to the February Audit & Governance meeting.

Resource Implications:

The cost of the recruitment process can be met from internal existing resources

Legal and Governance Implications:

The discretionary nature of the Committee means that the only rules specifically related to this report are those which the Council has devised and reflected in the Constitution.

Safer, Cleaner Greener Implications:

None.

Consultation Undertaken:

This report has been circulated to members of the Corporate Governance Group and Chairman of this Committee.

Background Papers:

Resignation letter of Rob Thompson.

Risk Management:

There are no identified risks in the principle or process of appointment using a tried and tested method. Not appointing would fail to comply with the current requirements of the Constitution.