

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: APPOINTMENT OF LAY CHAIRPERSON TO AUDIT COMMITTEE
Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL
Date: 8 DECEMBER 2010
Author: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This Report provides an update on the process to recruit a lay Chairperson for the Council's Audit Committee.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 At the meeting of Falkirk Council on 6 October 2010, Members agreed:-

- (1) the process for the recruitment and selection of a lay person as Convener of the Audit Committee as outlined in the report;
- (2) that the appointee should hold the post until the next Local Government Elections due to be held in May 2012;
- (3) that the post will not attract any form of remuneration, but would be voluntary with expenses and subsistence being reimbursed as appropriate;
- (4) the changes to Standing Orders as detailed in Appendix 3; and
- (5) to confirm the composition of the Selection Panel as 2 Labour Group members, 2 SNP Group members and 1 member drawn from the Conservative Group/aligned Independent members/non-aligned Independent member and to request that nominations to the panel are submitted to the Acting Director of Law and Administration.

2.2 A timetable for the recruitment process was appended to the Report and in accordance with this the closing date for applications was 5 November 2010.

3. RECRUITMENT PROCESS

3.1 An advert was placed in the Falkirk Herald on 14 October 2010, and on the Council's website. I also wrote to Community Councils and to local business groups to advise of the vacancy and to seek interest.

3.2 Two expressions of interest were received from local people and two application packs were sent out.

3.3 At the closing date of 5 November 2010 no applications had been received.

3.4 Given that no applications were received at the closing date, it was considered appropriate to extend the nomination period until 24 December 2010 with a view to broadening the audience for the advert and encouraging interest. A revised advert was placed on the Council's website and was also posted on the My Future's in Falkirk website, and on the linked-in networking site. In addition community and business groups are being contacted to seek interest and to re-advertise the post, this included an e-mail which was sent to around 2500 contacts involved in Falkirk for Business.

4. NEXT STAGE

4.1 A selection panel has been formed, made up of 2 Labour, 2 SNP and 1 Independent Member in line with the guidelines on political proportionality.

4.2 It is proposed to convene a meeting of the Selection Panel early in the New Year 2011, to discuss any applications received, with a view to making an appointment.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Council is invited to:-

- (1) Note the process undertaken for the recruitment and selection of a lay person as Convener of the Audit Committee as outlined in the report, and**
- (2) Note that a meeting of the Selection Panel will be convened to take place early in the New Year 2011.**

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Chief Executive

Date: November 2010

(Contact Officer: Brian Pirie, Democratic Services Manager, ext 6110).

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil