

Report of the Chief Executive

Portfolio of the Leader

Appointment of Chair for the York Flood Inquiry

Summary

1. As is well known York suffered significant flooding over the Christmas period of 2015. In light of that circumstance the Leader and Deputy Leader, following consultation with all Group Leaders, announced that an independent inquiry would be held. This decision has subsequently been ratified by the Executive.
2. The City Council is currently advertising for an appropriately qualified independent person to chair the inquiry. The closing date for applications is the 12th February. The Council's search for a person to perform this role has been supported by reports in local media including the York Press, Yorkshire Post and Minster FM.
3. It is proposed that this Committee now establish a Panel to interview for this role and make an appointment. It is recommended that the Panel should be made up of the four Group Leaders: Cllr. Steward, Cllr. Aspden, Cllr. Looker and Cllr. D'Agorne.
4. Once the Chair is appointed it is proposed that two further Members should be appointed to the inquiry team. These Members should be appointed in consultation with the Chair and with a view to achieving the right balance of professional knowledge to enable the inquiry to be effective. It is proposed that the Chief Executive should confirm these appointments.

Council Plan

5. The report has no specific implications for Council plan priorities.

Implications

6. **Legal** - The Appointments Panel will be a sub committee of this committee and its terms of reference are to exercise the functions of the Council in relation to the selection and appointment of a Chair for the flooding inquiry. In circumstances where the appointing committee agrees, without any member voting against, S.17 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 provides that the distribution of seats on a sub-committee need not comply with the political balance requirements contained in Part 1 of that Act.

There are no other implications flowing specifically from this report.

Risk Management

7. There are no known risks attached to this recommendation

Recommendations

8. Members are recommended to:
 - a) Appoint a Panel consisting of the four Group Leaders to interview and appoint for the role of Chair to the Flood Inquiry
 - b) Note that two further members of the inquiry team will be appointed by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of the inquiry.

Reason:

To ensure the appointment of a credible and independent chair for the flood inquiry.

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**Report
Approved**

✓ **Date** 4 February
2016

Wards Affected: All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes

None