

NWIFCA Annual Meeting

28th June 2018: 11.00 a.m.

AGENDA
ITEM NO.
15

CHAIRMAN'S PROPOSAL TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NWIFCA

Purpose: To seek approval from the members to initiate negotiations with one of the NWIFCA's eight funding authorities to conduct an independent policies, procedures and governance audit of the NWIFCA. Should none of those authorities be willing or able to conduct such an audit, to seek approval to choose an alternative independent body having the requisite skills to deliver a similar report.

Recommendation: That the request be approved by the members

Background:

This report is brief and is not intended to lead to significant debate at this stage. Its purpose is to request that members should give authority to the Chairman to open discussions with one or more of the NWIFCA's eight funding authorities. It is felt that substantive discussion will arise as and when the findings of any such audit are made available to the members of the NWIFCA.

Every four years, DEFRA produces a report for government on the conduct and achievement of all ten IFCA's. The last such report was produced in 2014 and it is anticipated that the drafting of the next report will be undertaken later on this summer. It is hoped that DEFRA will view this proposed course of action as a positive step being taken by the NWIFCA. All eight funding authorities have a duty of care to their electorate and as such, they should, from time to time, be making enquiries as to how their money is spent. Cumbria CC, for example funded the NWIFCA in 2014/2015 to the tune of £486,075. By comparison, Lancashire CC paid £393,467 but, unlike Cumbria CC, received a Defra Support Grant of £201,857, reducing their net contribution to about £180,000.

It is hoped that all members would welcome the findings of any such independent "health check" and that constructive recommendations would emanate from the report.

The Chairman will be looking to discuss the terms of reference, the timescale and the costs implicit in the conduct of any such audit. It is to be hoped that the authority conducting the audit will be prepared to make it available to all other funding authorities who will also be willing to share in the cost of its preparation.

Cllr Paul Williams
Chairman NWIFCA
18th June 2018