

COUNCIL
23 JULY 2015

Report of the Head of Corporate Services

**MEMBERS ALLOWANCES – RECRUITMENT OF INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION
PANEL – UPDATING REPORT**

SUMMARY

This is an updating report which recommends the formal appointment of independent persons to form the Independent Remuneration Panel.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Mr Philip Woodward is formally appointed as a member of the Independent Remuneration with a four year term of office ending in 2019.
2. That Mr Roger Tebb and Mrs Patricia Boyle are appointed as temporary members of the Panel for a period not exceeding six months.
3. That the allowance for Panel members be set at £100 per meeting plus £25 reading allowance.

WARDS AFFECTED

Not applicable

STRATEGIC LINK

Not applicable

1. REPORT

- 1.1** The District Council has a scheme of Members' Allowances which is due for review. To do so, it must appoint an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) to consider the scheme and make recommendations to the Council for consideration. Following an open recruitment exercise one applicant was interviewed by the Head of Corporate Services and Councillor FitzHerbert on 3 July.
- 1.2** The applicant, Mr Philip Woodward demonstrated his suitability for appointment to the position and meets the statutory requirements regarding the need to demonstrate independence from the District Council. Mr Woodward's appointment is therefore recommended for a four year term.
- 1.3** Ideally a Panel of four members, with a quorum of three is required. A previous member of the Panel, Mr Roger Tebb, has subsequently offered his services for a limited period of time sufficient to conduct the review. Mr Tebb does not wish to commit for a four year period and his continued independence has been verified. It is therefore recommended that Mr Tebb join the Panel for its immediate piece of

work in reviewing the Scheme of Allowances for a time period not exceeding six months.

1.4 To complete the membership, enquiries have been made of other Derbyshire authorities to see if any neighbouring Panel members are willing to work on the Derbyshire Dales review. Mrs Patricia Boyle, member of Derbyshire County Council's IRP Panel has come forward and is similarly interested in contributing to a short piece of work for the District Council. Appointment for a period not exceeding six months is also recommended.

1.5 The basic terms of reference of the IRP once commissioned will be to make recommendations as to:

- o the level of Basic Allowance for all Members;
- o the categories of special responsibility for which a Special Responsibility Allowance should be paid and the levels of those allowances;
- o whether Dependant Carers' allowance should be payable to Members and the amount of such an allowance;
- o travelling and subsistence allowances; and
- o any annual uplift.

1.6 The Panel will be supported by the Head of Corporate Services and the Head of Resources.

2. FEE STRUCTURE

2.1 The current allowance for members of the IRP is £10 per hour plus reimbursement of expenses and mileage allowance. The figure is now out of date in comparison with other authorities. A new fee is therefore recommended as follows:

£100	attendance allowance per meeting of the IRP including ancillary work eg interviews
£25	reading allowance in preparation for meetings
Mileage	at standard rate
Car Parking	Reimbursement of actual costs

It is estimated that the Panel may need to meet up to 6 times to complete the piece of work

3. RISK ASSESSMENT

Legal

The scheme of Members' Allowances is made in accordance with Section 99 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Authority (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003. The recruitment process as described meets with the requirements and the legal risk is therefore low.

Financial

The cost of the advertisement has been met from existing budgets. Members of the Panel are entitled to an allowance whilst undertaking work as members of the IRP. The cost can be met from existing budgets, therefore the financial risk is low.

4. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

In preparing this report, the relevance of the following factors has also been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, environmental, climate change, health, and human rights.

5. CONTACT INFORMATION

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6. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None