

Report of the Managing Director

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERSHIP TO INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

1 Purpose of report

To seek approval for the appointment of Mr Ged Dempsey, Mr Stephen Leach, Mr Andrew Page and Mr Martin Wheatley to the council's Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP), as required by The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) Regulations 2003.

2 Executive summary

The 2003 regulations require the council to establish an IRP for it to consider and make recommendations on the allowances received by members. The IRP last met in 2009.

3 Proposed action:

Council is invited to RESOLVE to agree to appoint Ged Dempsey, Stephen Leach, Andrew Page and Martin Wheatley as members of the council's Independent Remuneration Panel for a period of five years with effect from 12 July 2017.

4 Background

4.1 The functions of the IRP are to make recommendations:

- to the authority as to the amount of basic allowance that should be payable to its elected members
- to the authority about the responsibilities or duties which should lead to the payment of a special responsibility allowance and as to the amount of such an allowance
- to the authority about the duties for which a travelling and subsistence allowance can be paid and as to the amount of this allowance
- as to the amount of co-optees' allowance
- as to whether the authority's allowances scheme should include an allowance in respect of the expenses of arranging for the care of children and dependants and if it does make such a recommendation, the amount of this allowance and the means by which it is determined
- on whether any allowance should be backdated to the beginning of a financial year in the event of the scheme being amended
- as to whether annual adjustments of allowance levels may be made by reference to an index, and, if so, for how long such a measure should run
- as to which members of an authority are to be entitled to pensions in accordance with a scheme made under section 7 of the Superannuation Act 1972

- as to treating basic allowance and special responsibility allowance as amounts in respect of which such pensions are payable.

4.2 Members' allowances were last reviewed by the IRP in May 2009. The recommendations of the IRP were considered by council on 21 June 2009 and it was agreed to increase the basic allowance by 2.5%, with all other allowances remaining unchanged.

4.3 Those members of the 2009 IRP are no longer available and so new members are required to be appointed; the IRP requires at least three members.

5 Discussion

5.1 A number of recruitment exercises have been undertaken that have included advertising on the council's website and in the local press.

5.2 The managing director has held discussions with all individuals referred to in paragraph 1 and is satisfied with their suitability to perform on the panel in accordance with the legal requirements.

5.3 All candidates have confirmed that they are willing to act as members of the IRP and their appointment must be made by full council.

5.4 The legislation allows the council to determine the term of office of members of the IRP and guidelines suggest between three and five years.

5.5 Given the length of time since an IRP was last convened and the challenges faced to identify suitable candidates, it is considered appropriate for the appointment of these panel members to be for a period of five years.

6 Legal powers

The council is required to appoint an Independent Remuneration Panel under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

7 Financial and value for money implications

Membership of the IRP is on a voluntary basis, with reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses; with the exception of Steven Leach who would be paid for his professional services in chairing the panel and preparing the necessary paperwork. The cost of this is expected to be in the region of £600 and can be met from existing budgets within corporate support.

8 Risk analysis

The council is required to appoint an Independent Remuneration Panel to comply with the above regulations. In addition, members are aware that a panel has not been convened since 2009 and have requested for this to be progressed.

9 Implications for equalities

There are no identified implications for equalities; the panel will consider the allowances in accordance with the legislation.

10 Author and contact officer

Karen Denton, Principal Corporate Support Manager

11 Consultees

Sue Lyons, Monitoring Officer

Liz Elliott, Managing Director

12 Background papers

There are no additional background papers, other than those referred to in the report.

