

**Meeting:** Council  
**Date:** 19 April 2012  
**Subject:** Independent Remuneration Panel: Membership  
**Report of:** Cllr Maurice Jones, Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources

**Summary:** This report recommends the appointment of Dr R Tipping to the Independent Remuneration Panel for the period to 31 March 2016.

Contact Officer: John Atkinson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services  
Public/Exempt: Public  
Wards Affected: All  
Function of: Council

## **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Council Priorities:**

The appointment of an Independent Remuneration Panel is necessary in relation to the provision of a fair scheme of Members' Allowances which is essential to the democratic process in ensuring an equal opportunity to all to become a Councillor.

### **Financial:**

Members of the Panel receive an allowance for each meeting attended which is at the same level as allowances paid to co-opted members. The allowances are currently £75 where a meeting lasts up to 4 hours and £150 where it is over 4 hours. Historically the Panel has never met on more than 3 occasions in a financial year.

### **Legal:**

The Council is required to establish and maintain an IRP under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

### **Risk Management:**

None resulting from this report

### **Staffing (including Trades Unions):**

None resulting from this report

**Equalities/Human Rights:**

The Panel is required to make recommendation to the Council concerning a Scheme of Members' Allowances, and the Scheme is an essential part of the democratic process in ensuring that Membership of the Council is not limited by reason of financial considerations.

**Community Safety:**

Not applicable.

**Sustainability:**

Not applicable.

**Overview and Scrutiny:**

Not applicable.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Dr R Tipping of Blunham be appointed as the fourth member of the Independent Remuneration Panel for the period ending 31 March 2016.**

**Statutory Background**

1. The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 require that a local authority may not adopt or amend a Scheme of Members' Allowances without first having regard to recommendations made to it by an Independent Remuneration Panel.
2. The Regulations also require that each local authority must establish an independent remuneration panel consisting of at least three members who must not be a member of a committee or sub-committee of the authority or disqualified from being a member of an authority.

**3. Panel Membership – New appointment**

At its meeting on 24 November 2011 Council approved an increase in membership from three to four and agreed that the fourth member be appointed for the period to 31 March 2016. Council also approved an interview process. Dr R Tipping of Blunham, the sole applicant, was interviewed on 10 January 2012. He fulfills the criteria required by the Regulations and the Interviewing Panel recommends his appointment.

**Background Papers:** (open to public inspection) None

**Location of papers:** Not applicable