
Meeting: Council
Date: 29 November 2012
Subject: Independent Remuneration Panel: Membership
Report of: Cllr Maurice Jones , Executive Member for Corporate Resources
Summary: This report recommends the appointment of Ms Helen Orme to the Independent Remuneration Panel for the period to 31 March 2015.

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:

n/a.

Sustainability:

n/a

Summary of Overview and Scrutiny Comments:

- Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION:

That Ms Helen Orme of Cranfield be appointed to fill the current vacancy on the Independent Remuneration Panel for the period ending 31 March 2015.

1. Statutory Background

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 13 September 2012 Council was advised of the resignation of one of the members of the Panel and it also approved revisions to the Interview Panel. Four applicants, who all fulfil the criteria required by the Regulations, were interviewed on 8 October 2012 and the Panel recommends that Ms Helen Orme of Cranfield be appointed to fill the vacancy.

Background Papers: (open to public inspection) None

Location of papers: Not applicable