
Meeting: Council
Date: 11 September 2014
Subject: Independent Remuneration Panel: Membership
Report of: Cllr Maurice Jones, Executive Member for Corporate Resources
Summary: This report proposes re-appointing two existing members to the Panel.

Advising Officer: Melanie Clay, Chief Legal and Democratic Services Officer
Contact Officer: Brian Dunleavy, Democratic Services Manager
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The recommendation supports the Council priorities:

- Enhancing the local community.
- Value for money.

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 recommendations 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

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. That Dr R Tipping and Mr C Bell are offered further appointments to the Independent Remuneration Panel for the periods ending 31 March 2019 and 31 March 2018 respectively.**

1. 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.

- 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 – Renewal appointments

The most recent Panel membership arrangement is as follows:

Name of Member	Period of Appointment
Mr C Bell	Expires 31 March 2014
Dr R Tipping	Expires 31 March 2015
Mrs H Orme	Expires 31 March 2016
Mr G Lambert	Expires 31 March 2017

Dr Tipping, who was first appointed in 2012 and Mr Bell, who served on the Panels of the legacy authorities, have been consulted on their continued membership of the Panel and both have indicated that they wish to do so.

4. Statutory Guidance on the 2003 Regulations stipulates that

“The local authority will need to consider the term of office of members of the panel.... The panel may become more effective as its knowledge and understanding of members’ allowances is increased.....Accordingly, local authorities may wish to consider appointing members of the panel for a term of office of several years, perhaps 3-5 years. Local authorities may also wish to consider phasing appointments to ensure that there is always one member of the panel who has some experience.....This could be achieved by differing lengths of appointment”.

5. Dr Tipping has served less than 3 years on the Panel in his initial period and it is proposed that he be offered a further appointment to the Panel for the period expiring on 31 March 2019. There would be benefits of continuity in the panel’s membership by re-appointing Mr Bell who has extensive knowledge of members’ allowances.

Background Papers: (open to public inspection) None

Location of papers: Not applicable