

# Central Bedfordshire Council

Council

18 April 2019

## Independent Remuneration Panel

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**Report of:** Cllr Richard Wenham, Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources,  
([richard.wenham@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:richard.wenham@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk))

**Responsible Director(s):** Charles Warboys, Director of Resources,  
([Charles.warboys@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Charles.warboys@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk))

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### Purpose of this report

This report proposes re-appointing an existing member of the Panel.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council is asked to:

- 1. re-appoint Dr R Tipping to the Independent Remuneration Panel until 31 March 2022.**

### Overview and Scrutiny Comments/Recommendations

1. This report has not been considered by any O& S Committee as it is only an administrative procedure.

### Background

2. 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.
3. 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.

## Panel Membership

4. The current Panel membership is as follows

Mr C Bell	Expires 31 March 2022
Mr P Hubbard	Expires 31 March 2020
Mr G Lambert	Expires 31 March 2021
Mr J Shipman	Expires 31 March 2021
Dr R Tipping	Expires 31 March 2019

5. Dr Tipping was first appointed in 2012 and has served on the Panels of the legacy authorities. He has indicated that he wishes to continue.
6. 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.*

## Reason for decision

7. Whilst Dr Tipping has served for a number of years there would be benefits of continuity in the panel's membership by re-appointing Dr Tipping who has extensive knowledge of members' allowances.

## Council Priorities

8. The effectiveness of an Independent Remuneration panel contributes to the Council's priorities of 'creating a stronger community' and a 'more effective and responsive Council'.

## Corporate Implications

## Legal Implications

9. Legal implications are incorporated within this report

## **Financial and Risk Implications**

10. 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. Any costs can be met from within existing budgets.

## **Equalities Implications**

11. Central Bedfordshire Council has a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics; age disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
12. 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.
13. The Scheme of Members' Allowances includes allowances for Dependants' Carers' to provide equality for any Member with caring responsibilities.

## **Appendices**

None

## **Background Papers**

None

**Report author(s): Brian Dunleavy**

**Democratic Services Manager**

**[Brian.dunleavy@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Brian.dunleavy@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)**