

Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' Allowances: Membership

Standards Committee

Date: 12th October 2015

Author:	Director of Law and Democratic Services
Wards:	All
Locality Affected:	All
Parishes Affected:	All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 To seek the Standards Committee's endorsement of the appointment of a representative of the (Higher) Education Sector to serve on the Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' Allowances, and to update the Committee on the current membership of the Panel.
- 1.2 The Standards Committee is responsible under Article 9 of the Council's Constitution for approving procedures associated with the appointment of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' Allowances.
- 1.3 The operation of effective and transparent arrangements for the Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' Allowances supports the Council Constitution's commitment to good governance.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note and endorse the appointment of Mr. Angus (Gus) Strang, as a representative of the Education Sector, on the Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' Allowances.
- 2.2 Note and endorse the membership of the Independent Remuneration Panel 2015.

3. Detail

Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' Allowances

- 3.1 The Council established the Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' Allowances in late 2001.
- 3.2 The Independent Remuneration Panel operates under the provisions of the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003. These Regulations require that all councils should set up independent panels, and take account of their advice, before changing their councillors' allowances scheme.

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- 3.3 The Council's Standards Committee oversees the composition and appointments procedure associated with the establishment and maintenance of the Independent Remuneration Panel.
 - 3.4 The Panel is made up of six members independent of the Council. One each nominated by the Education, Business and Voluntary / Community sectors and three members appointed by the Standards Committee following public advertisement. There is currently one vacancy on the Panel.
 - 3.5 The current membership of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' Allowances is Mr Keith Strickland (Chair, appointed in March 2014), Mr John Dernie (Business Sector initially appointed in April 2010), Ms Wendy Hall MBE (Voluntary/ Community Sector initially appointed February 2002), Mr Ram Thiagarajah (appointed in October 2014) and Mr David Wilkie (initially appointed in July 2009). There is one vacancy (Education Sector).
 - 3.6 The three members of the Remuneration Panel appointed from stakeholder / partner organisations serve for a term of office of four years. The three members appointed following public advertisement are appointed for a period of three years. There is no restriction on the re-appointment of members.

Appointment of Education Sector Representative

- 3.7 Ms. Jenny Newlyn stood down from the Independent Remuneration Panel as the Education Sector representative on 12th June, 2015. She advised that this was because as she no longer had any direct work, home or family connections with Swindon and she believed that it would be more appropriate for a representative of the sector to serve on the Panel who had such links to the Borough.
- 3.8 Ms Newlyn's decision resulted in contact being made with all local Higher Education Sector contacts within the Borough seeking them to identify individuals who they believed might have the necessary skills and interest to serve on the Panel.
- 3.9 In order to avoid any possible conflicts of interests the Independent Remuneration Panel has since it was first established only sought nominations from the Higher Education sector.
- 3.10 The name of Mr Angus (Gus) Strang was put forward to fill the vacancy. Mr Strang is a Senior Lecturer and Subject Co-ordinator at Oxford Brookes University at the Ferndale Campus in Swindon, a role he has held since 2001. He has also been a resident in Swindon since 2006. He holds an MSc in Healthcare Management which included modules on financial management. He has expressed an interest in becoming more active in the public life of the Borough in which he both lives and works and believes that membership of the Panel would provide him with the opportunity to do this.

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3.11 The Chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel, Mr. Keith Strickland, and Mr. Ian Willcox, Committee and Member Services Manager and Advisor to the Independent Remuneration Panel met with Mr Strang on Monday 3rd August 2015, and are happy to recommend and support Mr. Strang's appointment to the Panel.

3.12 The Standards Committee is asked to formally endorse this appointment and is also asked to note and endorse the 2015 membership of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' Allowances.

4. Alternative Options

4.1 The Standards Committee could determine to not endorse the appointment.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

5.1 Members of the Independent Remuneration Panel receive an allowance of £200 per year. A budget is available for this.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

5.2 Legal and Human Rights considerations have been taken fully into account in compiling this report. It is considered that the recommendations of this report are compatible with convention rights.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

5.3 No other implications were identified in the preparation of this report ,

Diversity Impact Assessment

5.4 A Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA) has not been undertaken as the report does not make any recommendations or have implications that affect services.

Risk Management

5.5 No risk management implications were identified in the preparation of this report.

6. Consultees

6.1 The Board Director, Resources (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

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7. Background Papers

7.1 None.

8. Appendices

8.1 None.