

Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' Allowances: Membership

Standards Committee

Date: 7th November 2016

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 approval of the appointment of a Lay Representative 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 operation of effective and transparent arrangements for the Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' Allowances supports the Council's commitment to good governance.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Approve the appointment of Mr David Body as a Lay Representative on the Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' Allowances.
- 2.2 Note and endorse the membership of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

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.
- 3.3 The Standards Committee is responsible under Article 9 of the Council's Constitution for overseeing and approving 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 Lay Representatives appointed by the Standards Committee following

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Vicki Yull, 01793 463603, vyull@swindon.gov.uk.

Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' Allowances: Membership

Standards Committee

Date: 7th November 2016

public advertisement. There is currently one vacancy on the Panel for a Lay Representative.

- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 The current membership of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' Allowances is as follows:
- Mr Keith Strickland - Lay Representative and Chair, appointed in March 2014. The term of office is three years for this appointment.
 - Mr Ram Thiagarajah - Lay Representative appointed in October 2014. The term of office is three years for this appointment.
 - Mr John Dernie - Business Sector Representative appointed in April 2010. The term of office is four years for this appointment.
 - Ms Wendy Hall MBE - Voluntary/ Community Sector Representative appointed in February 2002. The term of office is four years for this appointment.
 - Mr Gus Strang – Education Sector Representative appointed in October 2015. The term of office is four years for this appointment.

Appointment of Lay Representative

- 3.7 Mr David Wilkie was a Lay Member of the Panel initially appointed in 2009. He indicated his intention at the beginning of 2016 to stand down from the Independent Remuneration Panel, and his final date was confirmed as 15 July 2016. He advised that requirements upon his time elsewhere meant he no longer had the capacity to undertake the work of the Panel.
- 3.8 An advertisement was placed in the Swindon Evening Advertiser in March 2016. Interested parties were sent application packs with a return deadline date of Friday 29 April 2016, and two applications were received.
- 3.9 The Chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel, Mr. Keith Strickland, together with Mr Ram Thiagarajah, Lay Representative on the Panel, and Mr Trevor Davies, a Lay Member of the Standards Committee, comprised the interviewing panel. The two candidates were interviewed on 9 June 2016 and 30 June 2016 respectively.

Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' Allowances: Membership

Standards Committee

Date: 7th November 2016

- 3.10 The preferred candidate, Mr David Body, has the same employer as one of the existing members of the Panel. It was felt that there was no conflict of interest however, and Mr Body is being nominated as the prospective Lay Representative for this Committee's consideration.
- 3.11 The unsuccessful candidate was sent a letter confirming the interview panel's decision and was thanked for their interest. Their details will be kept on file for future consideration as the applicant was considered to be a strong candidate.
- 3.12 The Standards Committee is asked to formally approve the appointment of Mr David Body as a Lay Representative to the Panel, and is also asked to note and endorse the membership of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' Allowances going forward.

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 are entitled to receive an allowance of £200 per year if they choose to claim it. 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.

Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' Allowances: Membership

Standards Committee

Date: 7th November 2016

6. Consultees

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

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 None.