

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Council

21 July 2011

AUTHOR/S: Executive Director (Corporate Services) / Legal & Democratic Services
Manager

APPOINTMENTS TO THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL (IRP)

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is for Council to agree membership of the Independent Remuneration Panel, effective for consideration of the 2012/13 members' allowances scheme and agree the level of expenses payable to members of the Panel.

This is a not key decision, however, Council is required to appoint an independent remuneration panel under the provisions of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003. The item was first published in the July 2011 Forward Plan.

Recommendations

2. Council is recommended to:
 - (a) appoint the following persons to form an independent remuneration panel, with immediate effect:
 - (i) Graham Jagger for a 2-year term of office, with an expiry date of 31 July 2013
 - (ii) Simon Harris for a 3-year term of office, with an expiry date of 31 July 2014
 - (iii) Kevin McIntyre for a 4-year term of office, with an expiry date of 31 July 2015
 - (b) agree the level of expenses paid to individual members of the panel, commensurate with the work carried out by them during their terms of office; the figure to be no more than £200 each per financial year. The final amount payable to be agreed by the Executive Director, Corporate Services in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

Reasons for Recommendations

3. Council is required to make appointments to its Independent Remuneration Panel and agree payment to the members of that panel for their services.

Background

4. On 23 June 2005, Council resolved 'that the Independent Remuneration Panel be appointed on a rolling three year basis starting with the current year.' Since that time, however, it has proved difficult to find replacement members when their term of office expired and two of the three panel members, with the agreement of Council, have

remained members until now. Those two members have indicated that they no longer want to remain on the panel.

5. The remaining panel member was appointed in September 2008 to serve a 3-year term ending 25 September 2011. He has indicated his willingness to serve a further term, subject to Council approval.
6. A recruitment campaign was initiated earlier this year seeking applications from members of the local community to join the IRP. This culminated in an article appearing in the spring edition of the *South Cambs Magazine*. As a result of the advertisement, a number of members of the public requested further information.
7. Alex Colyer, Executive Director, Corporate Services and the remaining panel member, Mr Graham Jagger, subsequently undertook interviews for replacement IRP panellists. As a result of the interview process, it was felt that the candidates recommended at para 2 (ii) and (iii) above would make useful additions to the IRP process.
8. The terms of office were discussed with the current and proposed panel members, all thought a staggered approach was a sensible option and were happy to leave the process to officers to decide the outcome.
9. Following the interview process, the Executive Director, Corporate Services, together with the Democratic Services Officer and two witnesses, drew lots to decide whom and what term of office the individual panel members would carry out. The outcome is given in para 2 (a) above.
10. Up to and including setting Members' allowances for 2007/08, the panel were paid a sum of £200 to cover their expenses. Following government capping of the Council in 2007, the then members of the panel agreed to reduce their out of pocket expenses to £20 per meeting; this was agreed by Council on 31 January 2008. As a result of the economic climate, consideration of Members' allowances for the years 2010/11 and 2011/12 were undertaken via e-mail between all parties and no fee was paid to panel members.

Considerations

11. Council is requested to consider the recommendations made to appoint replacement IRP members and the level of monies payable to those panel members for consideration of Members' allowances for 2012/13, depending on the level of investigation deemed appropriate by the Council.

Options

12. Council can either:
 - a. agree the recommendations,
 - b. make variations to specific elements of the recommendations, or
 - c. reject the recommendations

Implications

13. Financial	Provision for an increase in fees payable to panel members has not been included in the budget, however, provision can be made within the revised estimates
Legal	Council is required to appoint an independent remuneration panel
Staffing	None
Risk Management	None
Equality and Diversity	None
Equality Impact Assessment completed	Not required
Climate Change	Not applicable

Consultations

14. A consultation process was not required in this instance.

Consultation with Children and Young People

15. Not applicable.

Effect on Strategic Aims

16. Not applicable.

Conclusions / Summary

17. Under the provisions of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, Council is required to appoint members to its Independent Remuneration Panel and pay an allowance to panel members.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

Council minutes, 23 June 2005, 31 January 2008, 25 September 2008

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