

Bolsover District Council

Council

13th July 2016

Independent Remuneration Panel

Report of the Monitoring Officer

This report is public

Purpose of the Report

To appoint an Independent Remuneration Panel to commence a mini review of the Members Allowance Scheme.

1 Report Details

- 1.1 Members will recall that on 2nd March 2016 they set the Members Allowance scheme for 2016/17. In addition Council resolved that “a mini review of Members’ Allowances be undertaken, looking specifically at the remuneration for Chair and Vice Chair of Licensing and Scrutiny bodies, as well as the issue of index linking for basic and special responsibility allowances.
- 1.2 Prior to making amendments to a scheme Members must have regard to the recommendations of an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) comprising at least three members who are not current elected or co-opted members of the Authority and who are not disqualified from becoming member of an authority.
- 1.3 Regulations do not specify how a local authority should go about finding members for its IRP. However, guidance published by Communities and Local Government states that members should be “independent, well qualified to discharge the functions of the panel and representative of the diversity of the communities in the local authority’s area.”
- 1.4 Officers have approached suitably qualified individuals and the following individuals are, in the opinion of the Council’s Monitoring Officer, suitably independent, qualified and representative of the local or nearby community:
 - Gordon Inglis, Headmaster of Bolsover School
 - Joanne Hill, a former Independent Member of the Standards Committee at Bolsover District Council

- Susan Ambler, Head of Financial Accounting and Control within the Finance department of the University of Derby.

1.5 All three individuals have been approached and have consented to being involved with the Panel.

1.6 Prior to the first meeting of the IRP officers will consult Members for views. This information will be put before the panel to assist them in making recommendations.

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

2.1 To set in motion a mini review of members' allowances at the authority

3 Consultation and Equality Impact

3.1 Members will be consulted as part of the process

3.2 No EIA is required as there is no scope for discrimination in commencement of a review and the appointment of Members.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 Not to appoint a panel and continue with the existing allowance scheme. Members however have requested a review and therefore it is necessary to appoint a panel

5 Implications

5.1 Finance and Risk Implications

5.1.1 The full financial implications of the review will not be known until the IRP's report is drafted and amendments to the scheme adopted.

5.1.2 It is proposed that the Council cover the cost of travel and subsistence.

5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 set out the statutory principles governing the creation of members allowance schemes and independent remuneration panels.

5.3 Human Resources Implications

Officer time in administering the panel, producing supporting information, advising and providing general support

6 Recommendations

That the Council:

6.1 Appoints Gordon Inglis, Susan Ambler and Joanne Hill to its Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) to consider:

- whether the Special Responsibility Allowances for the Chair and Vice Chair of Licensing and the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees are adequate; and
- whether allowances should be index linked

6.2 Agrees to the IRP members being reimbursed travel and subsistence expenses in connection with their work on the Panel;

7 Decision Information

Is the decision a Key Decision? (A Key Decision is one which results in income or expenditure to the Council of £50,000 or more or which has a significant impact on two or more District wards)	No
District Wards Affected	None.
Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework	None.

8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
	None.
Background Papers None	
None.	
Report Author	Contact Number
Jim Fieldsend, Senior Principal Solicitor	01246 242472