
Appointment of the Independent Remuneration Panel – Summary Report

Committee considering report:	Council on 14 September 2017
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Graham Jones
Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	17 August 2017
Report Author:	Jude Thomas
Forward Plan Ref:	C3310

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To agree the membership of the West Berkshire Council Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) for 2017.
- 1.2 To agree the scope of the allowances the IRP will consider at its next meeting.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To agree the membership of the West Berkshire Council IRP.
- 2.2 To agree that the scope that the IRP will consider will include:
 - Basic Allowance
 - Special Responsibility Allowances - with particular attention to the following:
 - Governance and Ethics Committee
 - Personnel Committee
 - Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission
 - Standards Committee
 - Allowances for Independent Members
 - Childcare and Dependent Carers Allowance
 - Travelling Allowance
 - Subsistence Allowance
 - The administration of the scheme

3. Implications

- 3.1 **Financial:** Expenses associated with the Panel will be met from existing budgets. Any changes to the Allowances will impact on the associated budgets
- 3.2 **Policy:** If approved by Council, changes arising from the IRP Recommendations will require Part 14 Members Allowances Scheme to be updated.
- 3.3 **Personnel:** NA
- 3.4 **Legal:** NA
- 3.5 **Risk Management:** NA

3.6 **Property:** NA

3.7 **Other:** NA

4. Other options considered

4.1 None

Executive Summary

5. Introduction / Background

5.1 The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 require Councils to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP). The IRP will broadly have the functions of providing the Council with advice on its Members Allowances Scheme and the amounts to be paid. The Council has to have regard to the advice of the IRP.

5.2 Under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (as amended) the Council is required to ensure that the composition of the Panel meets the following requirements:

- (1) The Panel should consist of at least three members.
- (2) The Panel members cannot be members of any local authority in respect of which that Panel makes recommendations. Anyone who would be disqualified from being elected as an elected member of a local authority is also disqualified from being a member of the Panel.
- (3) The members of the Panel cannot also be members of a Committee or Sub-Committee of an authority in respect of which the Panel makes recommendations. This includes Co-opted members and members of the Governance and Ethics Committee and Independent Persons.

5.3 The last meeting of the panel took place in February 2015 and provided an extensive review of Members' Allowances. The panel members at that time were Ms Lindsey Appleton, Mr David Danielli and Mr Declan Hall. Ms Appleton, Corporate Ethics Manager at AWE and a magistrate, is now a West Berkshire Council Independent Person and cannot, therefore, form part of the panel. Mr Hall was employed as an advisory consultant for the Panel and it is not intended that he be employed on this occasion.

5.4 Given the need to replace two of the previous panel members, and in line with the statutory requirements, the proposed membership of the Panel for November 2017 is as follows:

- Mr David Danielli - Corporate Communications Consultant and ex manager in Vodafone Group
- Mr Jonathon Hopson - Chief Executive of Camp Hopson & Co. Ltd. in Newbury from 2004 to 2014
- Mr Tim Renouf – IT Consultant and Governor at St Nicolas School

On 17 August, Operations Board was informed that Mr Geoff Knappett, Chairman of the Newbury College Corporation, had withdrawn from the Panel since the report was presented to Corporate Board on 1 August and that a replacement was being sought. It is now proposed that Mr Tim Renouf join the panel as the third member. This has been agreed with both Group Leaders.

5.5 It is proposed that the IRP will meet in November 2017 to review the Members' Allowances Scheme as follows:

- Basic Allowance
- Special Responsibility Allowances with particular attention to the following:
 - Governance and Ethics Committee
 - Personnel Committee
 - Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission
 - Standards Committee
- Allowances for Independent Members
- Childcare and Dependent Carers Allowance
- Travelling Allowance
- Subsistence Allowance
- The administration of the scheme.

6. Conclusion

6.1 A report setting out the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel will be brought to Council in December 2017.

7. Appendices

7.1 There are no Appendices to this report.