



## OFFICER REPORT TO COUNCIL

### APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

#### **KEY ISSUE/DECISION:**

To agree the arrangements for the appointment of an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) to review the existing Members' Allowances Scheme prior to 2024.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

1. In accordance with regulation 19 of The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, local authorities have a duty to have regard to recommendations from an IRP before a scheme can be amended. On 31 October 2022, the three year term of the IRP came to an end. A panel must consist of at least three members and two of the three appointees have chosen not to seek reappointment. Consequently, a new IRP must be appointed prior to any further review or changes to the scheme.
2. A comprehensive IRP review was undertaken in 2020, with a smaller [review](#) taking place in 2021. There is no immediate requirement to convene the IRP until the next review which is due to be published by March 2024.
3. The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 requires a panel to consist of at least three members. Given that an IRP Review is not required until 2024 then the recruitment and induction timeline can be tailored to lead into a review starting in summer 2023.
4. The proposed timeline for the appointment of a new IRP and its subsequent review is as follows:
  - February 2023 – advertise for members of the IRP
  - April – Appointments Panel conducts interviews
  - May – Council ratifies appointments
  - June – IRP induction
  - July – IRP review commences

- Dec 2023/Feb 2024 – IRP presents its report and recommendations to Council
5. The Appointments Panel to consist of the following membership:
- Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Council
  - Conservative Group Leader
  - Residents' Association/Independent Group Leader
  - Liberal Democrat Group Leader
  - Monitoring Officer present for governance (ensuring that it is a fair, consistent and transparent process) and to record the panels scoring and decision.

<b><u>RECOMMENDATIONS:</u></b>
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It is recommended that the County Council:

1. Approves the proposed timetable for the appointment of an IRP and the completion of its subsequent review of Allowances Scheme as set out in paragraph 4 above.
2. Approves an Appointments Panel consisting of the membership set out in paragraph 5 above.

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**Sources/background papers:**

Report of the IRP into the Special Responsibility Allowance for Select Committee Task Group Leads, March 2021

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003  
[legislation.gov.uk](http://legislation.gov.uk)

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