

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**MEMBERS ALLOWANCES SCHEME: THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION
PANEL****Purpose of the Report**

1. To agree arrangements for the re-establishment of an Independent Remuneration Panel to review the Members Allowances Scheme in accordance with statutory requirements.

Information and Advice

2. It is a legal requirement for the County Council to have regard to a report from an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) before making or revising its Members Allowances Scheme. The Council's current Scheme was agreed by the County Council in May 2012 when the committee system was implemented.
3. The members of the IRP were selected in 2009 following a selection process undertaken by Councillors and Officers. The term of appointment for the IRP has now expired and consideration needs to be given to the selection process for a new Panel.
4. There will not be any changes to the allowances approved for IRP members in 2009 due to financial pressures.
5. To ensure the selection process is open to public scrutiny it is proposed to use a combination of advertising and asking stakeholders to put forward candidates, as in 2009. It is proposed that the Panel again consists of three members, one of whom would be the Chairman, with appointments being made for four years.
6. A panel of three County Councillors nominated by the Group Business Managers will be convened to undertake the selection process, in conjunction with the Monitoring Officer. Final appointments will be confirmed by Full Council.
7. The new Panel will need to be convened to carry out a review of the Members Allowances Scheme before the end of May 2017.
8. The Nottinghamshire IRP has previously met on a 'task and finish' basis. Some other authorities appoint their IRP's on a standing basis and call on them more regularly. It is proposed to continue with the 'task and finish' approach to keep costs to a minimum.

Other Options Considered

9. It is a legal requirement for the Council to appoint an IRP and to review the Members' Allowances Scheme. Options for membership and frequency of panel meetings are set out in the report.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

10. To ensure the appointment process gives the public confidence that the membership of the IRP is independent, and that costs are kept down by limiting the size of the Panel's membership and the frequency with which it is convened.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That a selection process as described in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the report be undertaken in order for the County Council to appoint three members to the Independent Remuneration Panel for a term of four years;
- 2) That the IRP be convened on a task and finish basis; a review of the Members Allowances Scheme being completed before the end of May 2017.

Anthony May
Chief Executive

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Sue Bearman

Email susan.bearman@nottsc.gov.uk, Tel 0115 9773378

Constitutional Comments (SMG 17/6/16)

12. The proposals set out in this report fall within the remit of Full Council.

Financial Comments (SES 21/06/16)

13. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 are published
- Report to County Council dated 17 May 2012 is published
- Report to Standards Committee dated 30 October 2007 is published

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All