



15 January 2025

Agenda Item:6

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CUSTOMERS, GOVERNANCE AND EMPLOYEES

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL MEMBERS

Purpose of the Report

1. To agree arrangements for the appointment of Members to the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) 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 IRP before making or revising its Members Allowances Scheme. The Council's current Scheme was agreed by the County Council on 24 November 2022, updating the Scheme agreed on 12 May 2022 in response to a change in political balance.
3. The existing IRP was appointed by Governance and Ethics Committee on 6 January 2021 for the period 2021-25.
4. Whilst the benefits of appointing new Panel Members at a relevant frequency are recognised, such benefits need to be balanced against the current Panel's knowledge of the Council's decision-making systems (with the Members having considered both the Council's committee system and executive arrangements in the past).
5. After initial conversations, all four of the Members involved in the last IRP have confirmed that they would be interested in being reappointed and are available in the relevant periods, should this be the Committee's favoured approach:-

a) Sir Rodney Brooke CBE, DL

Sir Rodney has a wide experience of local government as a former Chief Executive and has chaired a number of IRPs for various Councils including previous panels for this Council. He has also chaired a number of other public sector bodies.

b) Madi Sharma

Madi has previously served on IRPs for Nottinghamshire, Ashfield and Mansfield. She is an international entrepreneur and ambassador for Nottingham.

c) Stephen Bray

Stephen is a former Corporate Director of Gedling Borough Council. He has first-hand experience of the work of an IRP and a detailed understanding of its role and function, from both an officer and Member perspective.

d) Charles Daybell

Charles is a former Chief Executive at Braintree District Council. He previously Chaired Nottinghamshire County Council's Standards Committee.

6. The new IRP will need to be convened to carry out a review of the Members Allowances Scheme by mid-June 2025, to enable the recommended scheme to be considered at the Full Council meeting of 10 July 2025.

Financial Implications

7. It is proposed to retain the previous fee structure and therefore the total costs will be approximately £8,500 as in 2022. These costs can be met from the relevant Democratic Services budget.

Other Options Considered

8. The Nottinghamshire IRP has previously met on a 'task and finish' basis. Some other authorities appoint their IRPs 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.
9. The Committee could decide to undertake a wider recruitment process as the initial starting point (and contact the previous IRP Members to ask them to reapply as part of that process). Whilst recognising the potential benefits of this approach, this would be more resource-intensive and would also prevent the existing Nottinghamshire County Council specific knowledge base of these Members from being fully utilised.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

10. It is a legal requirement for the Council to appoint an IRP and to review the Members' Allowances Scheme.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, 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, smarter working, sustainability and the environment 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

That Sir Rodney Brooke CBE DL, Madi Sharma, Stephen Bray and Charles Daybell be reappointed as the Independent Remuneration Panel for Nottinghamshire County Council for the period 2025-29.

Marjorie Toward

Service Director – Customers, Governance and Employees

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (HD – 18/12/24)

12. The proposals set out in this report fall within the remit of Governance and Ethics Committee.

Financial Comments (SES 10/12/2024)

13. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 7 of the report.

14. It is proposed to retain the previous fee structure and therefore the total costs will be approximately £8,500 as in 2022. These costs can be met from the relevant Democratic Services budget.

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
- Report to County Council dated 12 January 2017 and minutes of that meeting (published)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All