

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director (Governance) Introduced by (Executive Member (Economic Development and Public Service Reform))	Council	Tuesday, 19 September 2023

Members Allowances - Appointment of Independent Remuneration Panel

Is this report confidential?	No
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Is this decision key?	Not applicable
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Purpose of the Report

1. The Council is required to appoint and instruct the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) to review the current Members Allowances Scheme and make recommendations on any changes to the Scheme for determination by Council.

Recommendations

2. That Council be recommended to appoint
 - Lorraine Norris, former Chief Executive of Preston City Council
 - Phil Davies, former Elections Manager at Chorley Council
 - Diane Gradwell, Chief Executive Officer, Citizens Advice Lancashire West as members of the Independent Remuneration Panel for a period of three years.
3. To reappoint Dennis Benson as the Chair of the Panel for the next three years.
4. That the Panel be requested to consider particularly a new role within the Members Allowances Scheme, to review the annual uprate mechanism and make recommendations on any changes to the Scheme for Council approval.

Reasons for recommendations

5. The Panel are required to be appointed in line with the requirements of the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

Other options considered and rejected

6. Not to comply with the Regulations.

Corporate priorities

7. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

Housing where residents can live well	A green and sustainable borough
An enterprising economy with vibrant local centres in urban and rural areas	Healthy, safe and engaged communities

Background to the report

8. The current Members Allowances Scheme was agreed in May 2021 following a full review.

Issues to be reviewed

9. Some minor changes have been requested relating to the new role of Deputy Portfolio Holder.
10. Allowances are uprated on an annual basis at the same rate as the officer annual pay increase. However, the increase with effect from 1 April 2022 was a lump sum, meaning an appropriate mechanism for members needs to be reviewed.
11. The Independent Remuneration Panel will meet and make recommendations which are then put forward for Council's consideration.

Independent Remuneration Panel

12. The Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) must be comprised of at least 3 members who are independent of the Council.
13. They must not be a member of the authority or a member of a committee or sub-committee of the authority or be disqualified from being or becoming a member of an authority.

Climate change and air quality

14. The work noted in this report has no impact on the Councils Carbon emissions and the wider Climate Emergency and sustainability targets of the Council.

Equality and diversity

15. An Impact Assessment will be completed as part of the review of the Scheme.
16. It is positive that the IRP itself will now have male and female members.

Risk

17. The council needs to take account of the recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel when determining the Members Allowances Scheme.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

18. There are no financial implications at this stage. Any recommendations from the panel in respect of changes to the scheme would be costed at that time to allow a decision to be made.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

19. The position is set out in the body of the report.

Background documents

The current members allowances scheme.

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