

By: Ben Watts, Monitoring Officer

To: Selection and Member Services Committee – 27 February 2020

Subject: Recruitment of the Independent Member Remuneration Panel

Classification: Unrestricted

Previous Pathway of Paper: None

Future Pathway of Paper: Selection and Member Services Committee 22 June 2020; County Council 22 October 2020

Summary: This report invites the Committee to determine the process for the recruitment of a new Independent Member Remuneration Panel when the terms of office for the current panel members expire on 31 October 2020.

Recommendation: The Committee is asked to:

- a. agree the recruitment process for the Member Remuneration Panel for the period 1 November 2020 to 31 October 2024; and
 - b. ask the Group Leaders to nominate an Honorary Alderman or a person who is not an existing Member or an individual planning to seek election to the County Council to be on the selection Panel by 5pm Monday 1 June 2020.
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1. Introduction

- a) Independent members of the Member Remuneration Panel are recommended to the Council for appointment by a panel of three people appointed by this Committee.
- b) The term of office for the current Panel members expires on 31 October 2020. The current members are:
 - Mr Stephen Wiggett (Chair)
 - Mr Haider Khan
 - Ms Margaret Ryder

2. Proposed Recruitment Process

- a) The Selection and Member Services Committee is responsible for appointing the selection Panel for the independent members of the Members

Remuneration Panel. The selection Panel is to be composed of three people who are not Members of the Council (section 17.10 of the Constitution).

- b) In line with the practice used in 2016, it is proposed that the Group Leaders be asked to nominate an Honorary Alderman or a person who is not either an existing Member or an individual planning to seek election to the County Council to be on the selection Panel.
- c) These nominations are to be sent to both the Chair of the Selection and Member Services Committee and Monitoring Officer by 5pm on Monday 1 June. The Selection and Member Services Committee shall meet on 22 June to confirm the appointment of the selection Panel. If there are more than three nominations made by the stated deadline, the Selection and Member Services Committee shall make the final determination at this meeting.
- d) Following confirmation of the selection Panel, the role of Independent Member of the Remuneration Panel will be publicly advertised from mid-July to the end of August.
- e) The selection Panel will meet and shortlist candidates for interview soon after and will conduct the interviews by the end of September.
- f) The recommendations of the selection Panel shall be presented to full Council at its meeting of 22 October 2020 when the new members of the new Member Remuneration Panel shall be appointed for the period 1 November 2020 to 31 October 2024.
- g) A copy of the job profile and specification is attached in the Appendix.

3. Legislation

- a) The statutory basis for the independent Members Remuneration Panel is contained in 'The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003'.¹
- b) The legislation requires that "Before the beginning of each year, an authority shall make the scheme... for the payment of basic allowance for that year."² The scheme needs to make provision for the following where it is intended that they shall be paid:
 - Special responsibility allowance(s)
 - Dependants' carers' allowance
 - Travelling and subsistence allowance
 - Co-optees allowance³

¹ SI 2003 1021, <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2003/1021/contents/made>

² Ibid. section 10(1).

³ Ibid. section 10(2) & 21

- c) Before a scheme is made or amended, the authority must have before it recommendations made by an independent remuneration panel. This panel must consist of at least three people, none of whom may be a Member of an authority, or one if it's committees or sub-committees, and must not be disqualified from being or becoming a Member of an authority.⁴

4. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to:

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- b. ask the Group Leaders to nominate an Honorary Alderman or a person who is not an existing Member or an individual planning to seek election to the County Council to be on the selection Panel by 5pm Monday 1 June 2020.

Background Documents

None

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⁴ Ibid. section 20(2).