

By: Ben Watts, Monitoring Officer

To: Selection and Member Services Committee – 23 June 2020

Subject: Selection Panel for the Member Remuneration Panel

Classification: Unrestricted

1. Introduction

- a) Independent members of the Member Remuneration Panel are recommended to the Council for appointment by a panel of three people who are not elected Members. It is the role of the Selection and Member Services Committee to make arrangements for the appointment of this selection panel.
- b) The term of office for the current Member Remuneration Panel members expires on 31 October 2020 so a recruitment process will take place later this year. The current members are:
 - Mr Stephen Wiggett (Chair)
 - Mr Haider Khan
 - Ms Margaret Ryder

2. Proposed Recruitment Process

- a) On 27 February 2020, the Selection and Member Services Committee agreed that the Group Leaders be asked 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.
- b) After the deadline for nominations had passed, nominations had been received from two Political Groups (the Liberal Democrat Group and the Conservative Group).
- c) The selection Panel is to be composed of three people who are not Members of the Council (section 17.10 of the Constitution). All Group Leaders were informed that two nominations had been received. The Conservative Group have indicated that they are willing to nominate a second Honorary Alderman to be part of the selection panel.

3. Recruitment Process

- a) 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.
- b) The selection Panel will meet and shortlist candidates for interview soon after and will conduct the interviews by the end of September.

- c) 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.

4. 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.
- 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 its committees or sub-committees, and must not be disqualified from being or becoming a Member of an authority.⁴

5. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to agree that the selection panel for Members of the Member Remuneration Panel be made up of 1 Honorary Alderman nominated by the Liberal Democrat Group and 2 from the Conservative Group.

Background Documents

Item 7, *Recruitment of the Independent Member Remuneration Panel*, Selection and Member Services Committee, 27 February 2020,
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MIId=8150&Ver=4>

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

² Ibid. section 10(1).

³ Ibid. section 10(2) & 21

⁴ Ibid. section 20(2).

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