

From: Ben Watts, General Counsel
To: County Council, 7 November 2024
Subject: Appointment of the Member Remuneration Panel
Past pathway: Selection and Member Services Committee, 28 October 2024
Status: Unrestricted

1. Introduction

- a) The current Member Allowances Scheme comes to an end on 31 March 2025. It is the responsibility of County Council to agree a new scheme. Before making any decisions on changing the scheme, or updating the scheme, the Council must have before it recommendations prepared by an independent Member Remuneration Panel (MRP).
- b) The practice of the Council has been to appoint MRP members to four year terms. The current Panel's term of office concluded on 31 October 2024.
- c) County Council is the appointing body for the Member Remuneration Panel.

2. Monitoring Officer Recommendations

- a) In order to maintain a separation between the Members and the recruitment of the Panel responsible for making recommendations on allowances, the Monitoring Officer is responsible for the recruitment exercise and making recommendations to the Selection and Member Services Committee.
- b) Following a public advertisement exercise on the County Council website, shortlisting and interviews were undertaken by Officers within Governance, Law and Democracy. Three individuals were then recommended by the Monitoring Officer to the Selection and Member Services Committee on 28 October 2024.
- c) The outcome of this meeting is that the following three individuals are being recommended for appointment:
 - a. Malvern Chirume.
 - b. Karen Price.
 - c. Roisin Reynolds.
- d) None are members of the current Panel. The appropriate pre-employment checks have been conducted. CVs of the individuals above are available upon request from the report authors.

3. Member Remuneration Panel Reviews

- a) As agreed by the Selection and Member Services Committee on 9 March 2023, and subsequently endorsed by County Council, the Panel will be asked to first produce recommendations for a one-year Member Allowances Scheme covering 2025/26. The new Panel will be able to commence work on this following the official start of their term once formally appointed by full Council.
- b) The Panel will then be asked to make recommendations for the next four-year scheme covering April 2026 to March 2030. This will mean that following this transition period, each four-year scheme will be offset from the election year. This will mean clarity for individuals considering standing for election, and will enable the new Council to consider what will be needed for the next scheme.

4. Recommendation

County Council is asked to agree the appointment of Malvern Chirume, Karen Price, and Roisin Reynolds to the Member Remuneration Panel for a four-year term commencing 7 November 2024.

5. Background Documents

None.

6. Relevant Director

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