

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL – 17 SEPTEMBER 2020
REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ACT 1989-APPOINTMENT OF
INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL MEMBERS

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Council's agreement to appoint Independent Remuneration Panel members to the Council's panel.

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That Council agrees to the appointment of R Atterton, K Cole and P Legood as members of the council's Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 2.2 That Council agrees to confirm the continued appointments of P Raynsford and D Tabraham-Palmer, as members of the council's Independent Remuneration Panel.

3 Explanation

- 3.1 By law, the Council, in making a scheme for the payment of Members' allowances, must establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP). The statutory minimum number of IRP members required to sit on a panel are three and there is no maximum number. The current panel consists of three members.
- 3.2 The Council, in making or amending its scheme, is under a legal obligation to 'have regard' to any recommendations of the IRP, in reaching its decision.
- 3.3 The Council's IRP was last appointed by Council in 2012 and since then, the arrangements have worked well.
- 3.4 One panel member at the start of this year, indicated their retirement from the panel.
- 3.5 The role was first advertised in February 2020 but unfortunately, there was limited interest at the time. Some feedback was received that a reason for this was that the role was unpaid and attracted no remuneration. However, officers pursued various other methods to encourage applications for this role, without the need to request from Council an agreement to pay remuneration at this stage. A second round of advertising took place in July 2020. Officers were pleased to receive sufficient applications on this occasion and applicants were interviewed by a panel of senior officers.
- 3.6 The senior officer panel consisted of the Corporate Director (Public Protection, Planning and Governance), Monitoring Officer and Governance Services Manager.
- 3.7 The senior officer panel recommends the appointments in this report. The quality of the applications was so high that the officer panel are recommending three appointments to the panel.

- 3.8 The other two existing IRP Members have indicated their wish to remain on the panel and their re-appointment to the panel is also recommended.
- 3.9 This would increase the panel to five members. It is proposed that the panel size is so increased, with a quorum of three. It is currently anticipated that the panel meetings will be held remotely.

Implications

4 Legal Implication(s)

- 4.1 The statutory requirements are contained at section 18 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Part 4 of The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

5 Financial Implication(s)

- 5.1 As the role is currently unpaid and attracts no allowances (other than reimbursement of travel expenses), there are no financial implications associated with this appointment.

6 Risk Management Implications

- 6.1 The risks related to this proposal are:
- 6.2 If the Council is unable to appoint sufficient members to form the IRP Panel, it would not be possible to review and amend the Scheme of Members' Allowances.

7 Security and Terrorism Implication(s)

- 7.1 Not applicable.

8 Procurement Implication(s)

- 8.1 Not applicable.

9 Climate Change Implication(s)

- 9.1 Not applicable.

10 Human Resources Implication(s)

- 10.1 Not applicable.

11 Health and Wellbeing Implication(s)

- 11.1 Not applicable.

12 Communication and Engagement Implication(s)

- 12.1 The Council is required to publish any recommendation made to it by the IRP in a prescribed way.

13 Link to Corporate Priorities

- 13.1 The subject of this report is linked to the Council's Corporate Priority Our Council, and specifically to the achievement of Value for Money, and is linked to a statutory requirement under stated legislation in this report.

14 Equality and Diversity

- 14.1. An EqlA was not completed because this report does not propose changes to existing service-related policies or the development of new service-related policies.

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Date	4 September 2020

Background papers to be listed (if applicable)

Advertisement and Application pack for the role.

Appendices to be listed:

None