

PART A

Report to: Annual Council
Date of meeting: 24 May 2016
Report of: Democratic Services Manager
Title: Terms of office of members of the Independent Members Remuneration Panel

1.0 **Summary**

- 1.1 In 2013 the Independent Members Remuneration Panel (IMRP) met to create a four year members remuneration scheme which would last from 2014-2018.
- 1.2 At the time the four members of the IMRP were paid 4 years allowance for their work on the understanding that they would be called upon if a review was required during that period.
- 1.3 In order for all 4 current members to remain on the IMRP Council is asked to extend their term of office until 31 March 2018. This would also cover the next quadrennial review for 2018-2022.
- 1.4 For 1 April 2018 onwards the Council would look to recruit new IMRP members so that they may be consulted on any changes 2018-2022 and the subsequent quadrennial review.

2.0 **Recommendations**

- 2.1 That Council approves to extend the terms of office for the four members of the current IMRP to 31 March 2018.

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Report approved by: Carol Chen, Head of Democracy and Governance

3.0 **Detailed Proposal**

3.1 The IMRP was established in 2000 to set a scheme of allowances for recommendation to the Council.

3.2 Members of the Panel are usually appointed for a four year period. There are currently four panel members. The Panel is required to have at least three members but it was felt that a fourth member was advisable in case anyone was unable to make the meeting at short notice. The four panel members are:

- Hazel Bentall
- Gill Crowson
- Barry Mathiason
- Lee Walsingham

3.3 In 2013 a quadrennial review was undertaken by the current panel to last from 2014-2018. The Panel were paid for 4 year's allowance (£200 per year, or £300 for the Chair of the Panel, so £800 and £1,200 in total respectively) as it was understood that if necessary they would be contacted during the four year period if Council felt that a review of the scheme was necessary.

3.4 As it was a change to the usual arrangements of reviewing allowances annually, it is now necessary to formally extend the terms of office for the Panel members in order to cover the period of their scheme.

3.5 It is proposed to extend their terms of office to 31 March 2018 to cover the current scheme and also the next quadrennial review which will take place at the end of 2017 to cover the period 2018-2022.

3.6 After 31 March 2018 it will be necessary to ask whether the current panel members wish to continue or to advertise to recruit panel members.

3.7 It is a requirement to review the scheme every four years under the current regulations.

4.0 **Implications**

4.1 **Financial**

4.1.1 The current panel members have already received 4 year's of allowance for 2014-18. It will need to be decided what fee to pay for the next quadrennial review for 2018-2022 in the knowledge that we will not necessarily be retaining the same panel for the future four year period.

4.1.2 The Shared Director of Finance comments that the financial implications are contained in the report and any amendments will need to be considered as part of the future years budget setting process.

4.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)

4.2.1 The Head of Democracy and Governance comments that the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 require that we have a panel made up of no less than three independent members who must not have previously been members of the authority. The Council has to have regard to their recommendations prior to making any decisions on members remuneration.

4.3 **Potential Risks**

Potential Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Overall score
That the Council does not have a complete panel to consult (needs at least 3 members)	1	3	3
<i>Those risks scoring 9 or above are considered significant and will need specific attention in project management. They will also be added to the service's Risk Register.</i>			

Background Papers

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report. If you wish to inspect or take copies of the background papers, please contact the officer named on the front page of the report.

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003

File Reference

- None