

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNCIL**

8 April 2015

Report of the Chief Executive

INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL – ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

1 Purpose of the Report

To receive the Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for 2014-15.

2 Information and Analysis

It is a requirement of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 that the Council appoint an Independent Panel on Members' Allowances to consider issues and put forward recommendations for the Council to consider in relation to the Members' Allowances Scheme. The Regulations also include a requirement for the Panel to make an Annual report to Council on its recent activities. Attached as an Appendix is the report for 2014-15.

3 Other Considerations

In preparing this report, the relevance of the following factors has been considered; legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, environmental, financial, health, human resources, property and transport considerations.

5 Background Papers

Files held by the Director of Legal Services.

6 OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for 2014-15 be received.

**IAN STEPHENSON
Chief Executive**

Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

Derbyshire County Council

March 2015

Panel Members

- Mr Ian Orford (Chair)
- Mrs Pat Boyle
- Mr Dennis Heaney
- Mr Andrew Sharpe
- Mr Simon Westwood

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1. Background

The work of the Panel was limited during 2014-15 due to the resignation of three of the former panel members early in the session, which meant the Panel was not quorate. As reported to Council on 3 December 2014 three new members have been appointed, bringing the total to five.

The Panel met for the first time on 26 January 2015 and collectively have a wide variety of relevant experience, at senior levels, in the Public, Private and Voluntary Sectors.

The current Panel wish to acknowledge the work undertaken over the preceding four years by Professor Allen Hutchinson, Ms Bridget Longman and Mr Tony Turnock.

The Panel have conducted an overview of the current Basic Allowance, Special Responsibility Allowances and Travel & Subsistence Allowances and given the current low levels of wage inflation find that these remain appropriate.

No matters requiring attention have been brought to the Panel's attention by Members or Officers of the Council.

2. Recommendations

Given the above circumstances, the Panel have no recommendations to put forward to Council in this report.

3. Panel plans 2015-16

PUBLIC

The Panel will continue to review the administrative and scrutiny structures of the Council and recommending appropriate remuneration.

To assist with the above the Panel are planning to hold meetings with Office Holders and other Members.

The Panel consider that the development of Role Profiles is an important element in ensuring appropriate links between responsibility and remuneration and look forward to seeing the results of the work currently in progress. In particular, the Panel will continue to review the role and responsibilities of Deputy Cabinet Members.

Members are welcome to bring appropriate matters of concern to the Panel's attention if they consider we should review them.

Appendix 1.

Terms of reference

The Local Government Act 2000 and the Consolidated Members' Allowances Regulations 2003, and subsequent amendments, require Independent Remuneration Panels to offer advice and rules on what Councillors may claim as expenses and allowances. Specifically they consider the following allowances:

- Basic allowance
- Special responsibility allowance
- Child care and dependent carer's allowance
- Pensions for members
- Travel and subsistence allowances
- Co-optee's allowances
- Provision for suspension of allowances in certain circumstances
- Suitability of an index for allowances and what that index might be.

All recommendations are to be published and considered by all Councillors, and must be voted on by the full Council.