

PUBLIC

Agenda item 11(e)

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNCIL****9 April 2014****Report of the Chief Executive, the Director of Legal Services
and the Director of Finance****INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL****1 Purpose of the Report**

To present to the Council the Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for 2013/14, to note the unchanged terms of the Members' Allowances Scheme and to consider proposals regarding future membership of the Panel.

2 Information and AnalysisAnnual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

The Panel is required by law to produce an Annual Report to be presented to full Council. The Annual Report, a copy of which is attached as Appendix 1 to this report, sets out the work of the Panel during 2013/14 and the planned activities for 2014/15.

Members' Allowances Scheme

The Current Members' Allowances Scheme was approved by the Council in October 2013. No further recommendations have been made by the Independent Remuneration Panel in respect of the Scheme and so the terms of the current Scheme will continue to be applicable for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2014.

Membership of the Independent Remuneration Panel

Three of the Panel's current members are reaching the end of their four year term of office: Professor Allen Hutchinson, Ms Bridget Longman and Mr Tony Turnock. The Council's arrangements permit members of the Panel to serve up to two terms of office. Professor Hutchinson and Ms Longman have indicated that they do not wish to serve a further term. However, Mr Turnock has indicated that he would wish to remain on the Panel.

The other Panel members, Mr Ian Orford and Mrs Pat Boyle, were appointed in 2012 and 2013, respectively.

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Regulations require Independent Remuneration Panels to have at least three members. Therefore, in order to ensure that the membership of the Panel meets the requirements, to preserve continuity, to ensure a beneficial overlap of membership in future years and to retain his valuable expertise, it is proposed that Mr Turnock be appointed for a further four year term

3 Legal Considerations

The proposals for the continuation of the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2014/2015 and the proposals regarding the membership of the Panel are in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 and the relevant guidance.

4 Other Considerations

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

5 Background Papers

Files held by the Technical Section, Corporate Finance Division and by the Director of Legal Services.

6 OFFICERS' RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

- (i) notes the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel dated March 2014.
- (ii) approves the continuation of the current Members' Allowances Scheme for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2014.
- (iii) approves the appointment of Mr Tony Turnock as a member of the Independent Remuneration Panel for a further period of four years .

IAN STEPHENSON

JOHN McELVANEY

PETER HANDFORD

Chief Executive

Director of Legal Services

Director of Finance

Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel
Derbyshire County Council
March 2014

Panel Members

- Professor Allen Hutchinson (Emeritus Professor in Public Health, University of Sheffield) (Chair)
- Mrs Pat Boyle (Magistrate, former Bank Officer)
- Ms Bridget Longman (Director, Longman Accountancy Services Ltd)
- Mr Ian Orford (former Bank Officer)
- Mr Tony Turnock (Director, Performance Development Consultants Ltd)

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1. Background

During the 2013-14 session the Panel has been concerned with reviewing the new Council administration structures and functions and recommending appropriate remuneration.

Extensive consideration was given to the proposals for a new remuneration structure for the Council in the period May 2013 to September 2013 and an Interim report of the Panel was considered by the full Council in October 2013. At that time the Panel indicated that it would continue to review the functions of the Cabinet Members and the Scrutiny structures as they developed into the new roles set out in the initial proposals by the Administration in May 2013.

2. Process of the review

With the assistance of a number of senior Members of the Council, and of Officers, the Panel has explored the emerging roles of Cabinet Member, Deputy Cabinet Member and Leader of the Opposition. This process has included support for the continuing development of the Councillor Role Profiles, which we know are still under active consideration. We look forward to seeing the results of the Profiles development in the near future.

In addition, the Panel has begun a process of gathering information concerning the new Scrutiny structures, with a view to examining further how the process is working during 2014-15.

Having made a number of recommendations to the Council in the Interim Report the Panel has chosen to take a monitoring role for the remainder of the session. There are, therefore, no recommendations being made to Council in this final report of 2013-14.

3. Panel activities during 2014-15

The Panel will continue to review the new administrative and scrutiny structures of the Council during 2014-15. As before, 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.

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