

NAME OF COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	17 February 2015
REPORT TITLE	APPOINTMENT OF A NEW INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL
Report of	The Democratic Services Manager
WARDS AFFECTED	All

Summary of report:

To consider a report that seeks Council approval to appoint a new Independent Remuneration Panel and that endorses the next Review being undertaken before the May 2015 local elections.

Financial implications:

None directly arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council **RESOLVES** that:

1. with immediate effect, the proposed appointments (as outlined at paragraph 2.3 of the presented agenda report) be made to the Independent Remuneration Panel; and,
2. the next review of the Scheme of Members' Allowances be completed before the new Council is elected in May 2015.

Officer contact:

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Lead Member contact:

Cllr Philip Sanders, Leader of Council (email: cldr.philip.sanders@westdevon.gov.uk).

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Council is required by legislation to appoint an Independent Remuneration Panel to make recommendations in relation to its Scheme of Members' Allowances.

- 1.2 Members will recall that, when the Council agreed at its special meeting on 24 June 2014 a revised Scheme of Members Allowances (Minute CM 24 refers), it also noted that the existing Panel Members had each given notice that they were not willing to serve beyond the end of 2014, except in a consultative capacity.

2. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Panel Membership

- 2.1 Once the Panel had served notice of its intention to stand down, informal soundings were taken from the Group Leaders with regard to the future composition of the Panel. In so doing, there was broad support for a Panel to be established comprising of four representatives.
- 2.2 To ensure a broad cross-section of skills and knowledge, there was also a general consensus that the Panel should have some expertise in the following areas: Members' allowances, local government, the business and commercial sector and the community and voluntary sector.
- 2.3 Using this guidance, potential Panel representatives have been approached and the following individuals have confirmed their willingness to serve on the Panel:-
- Independent Representative: Don Latham – advisor specialising in the field of Members' allowances and the proposed Chairman of the Panel;
 - Town and Parish Council Representative: Marshall Davis – serving Buckland Monachorum Parish Councillor;
 - Commercial and Business Sector Representative: Simon Earland – Chairman of the West Devon Branch of the Federation of Small Businesses; and
 - Community and Voluntary Sector Representative: Karen Nolan – Chief Executive of West Devon Community and Voluntary Services (CVS).
- 2.4 Council approval is therefore sought for the confirmation of these appointments.
- ### **Next Review**
- 2.5 Since the revised governance arrangements were agreed by Council at its last meeting on 9 December 2014 (Minute CM 65 refers), the present Scheme of Members Allowances will not be fit for purpose following the May 2015 elections.
- 2.6 Group Leaders have therefore been contacted for an informal steer on whether they would prefer the next review to be undertaken before the May 2015 elections or during the late summer of 2015 (with any revisions then being backdated), thereby enabling the new decision-making structure a couple of months to settle down before any recommendations were made.
- 2.7 On balance, the majority view is that this review should be undertaken before May 2015, thus becoming effective in time for the newly elected Council. As a result, and since this is the last scheduled meeting of Council before May 2015, it will be necessary to convene a Special Council meeting either during late March or April to consider the recommendations of the new Panel.

3. RISK MANAGEMENT

3.1 The Risk Management implications are shown at the end of this report in the Strategic Risks Template.

4. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate priorities engaged:	All
Statutory powers:	The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances)(England) Regulations 2003.
Considerations of equality and human rights:	None directly related to this report
Biodiversity considerations:	None directly related to this report
Sustainability considerations:	None directly related to this report
Crime and disorder implications:	None directly related to this report
Background papers:	The Council Constitution
Appendices attached:	None.

STRATEGIC RISKS TEMPLATE

No	Risk Title	Risk/Opportunity Description	Inherent risk status			Mitigating & Management actions	Ownership	
			Impact of negative outcome	Chance of negative outcome	Risk score and direction of travel			
1	Time constraints in appointing a new Panel.	In the event of these recommendations not being supported, it will be almost impossible to have a new Panel established and able to conduct a review in time for a revised Scheme of Members' Allowances to be in place for the May 2015 local elections.	3	1	3	↔	The Council approving these recommendations will enable officers to progress this piece of work promptly.	Democratic Services Manager

Direction of travel symbols ↓ ↑ ↔