

North East Derbyshire Council

Council

29 November 2021

Independent Remuneration Panel

Report of the Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

Classification: This report is public

Report By: Sarah Sternberg - Assistant Director of Governance & Monitoring Officer

Contact Officer: Sarah Sternberg - Assistant Director of Governance & Monitoring Officer – 01246 242414

PURPOSE / SUMMARY

To make proposals for the setting up of an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) to review the Members' Allowances Scheme.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To agree that each Panel Member is paid £200 for participation in a full review of the Members' Allowances Scheme including Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances.
2. To give the Head of Paid Service delegated authority to appoint Members to the Independent Remuneration Panel and that this delegation be referred to Standards Committee for inclusion in the Council's Delegation Scheme in the Constitution

Approved by the Chair of Standards Committee

IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Risk: Yes No

Details:

There will be a cost of £600 for a minimum of 3 IRP Members to undertake this review.

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection):

Yes

No

Details:

As in the report

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Staffing: Yes

No

Details:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Decision Information	
Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: BDC: Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £250,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
District Wards Significantly Affected	None directly
Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cabinet / Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SAMT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes Details: Ward Members

Links to Council Ambition (BDC)/Council Plan (NED) priorities or Policy Framework including Climate Change, Equalities, and Economics and Health implications.

No direct link but all indirectly

REPORT DETAILS

1 Background *(reasons for bringing the report)*

- 1.1 The Council has a Members' Allowances Scheme. This sets out the level of allowances payable as Basic and Special Responsibility Allowance to Members as well as Childcare and Dependent Carers' Allowances and Travel and Subsistence payments. The Scheme is in the Council's Constitution.
- 1.2 The Members' Allowances Scheme provides for the Allowances to have an index linked increase each year.
- 1.3 Under the Regulations governing the administration of such Schemes (The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances)(England) Regulations 2003 no 1021) where this is the case, the Council must set up an IRP to review the Scheme on a 4 yearly basis. This review is now due.
- 1.4 In addition it is proposed that a Special Responsibility Allowance (an SRA) be considered for the Chair of the Licensing Committee as part of the review. This is the only Chair not to receive an SRA.
- 1.5 The IRP Panel must consist of a minimum of three Members, none of whom must be Councillors, Independent Persons or disqualified from being Councillors. It has been the practice to try and appoint people of good standing from other public sector areas.
- 1.6 In February this year Standards Committee considered a report about the setting up of the IRP. After that time efforts have been made to find people who would commit the time for free to carry out the review and produce a report. Unfortunately it has proved impossible to recruit on this basis. It was not possible to find anyone who would commit to the review.
- 1.7 In an effort to encourage participation, it is suggested that the 3 Members of the IRP are paid £200 each plus travel for their time and assistance. It is hoped that this way the IRP can be successfully recruited.
- 1.8 In order that the recruitment of the IRP can proceed it is a recommendation that the Head of Paid Service be given delegated power to appoint suitable IRP Members.
- 1.9 The IRP's report must be considered by the Council and will therefore be reported to Members when produced. It is a requirement that the report is publicised when given to the Council.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

2.1 It is proposed that the Head of Paid Service appoint at least 3 people to the Independent Remuneration Panel and that each of these IRP Members is paid £200 plus travel for reviewing and producing a report on the Members' Allowances Scheme early in 2022.

3 Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 To ensure a review of the Members' Allowances Scheme is carried out.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 The Members' Allowances Scheme must be reviewed so there is no alternative to this recommendation.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
None	
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	