

**North East Derbyshire District Council**

**Council**

**7 March 2022**

**Outcome of the Review of the Chair of Licensing Committee Allowance by the Independent Remuneration Panel**

Classification: This report is public

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**PURPOSE / SUMMARY**

To consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) in reference to the role of the Chair and Vice Chair of Licensing Committee.

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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Council:

- (1) Consider the recommendations of the IRP in relation to the role of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Licensing Committee; and
- (2) Agree a suitable remuneration for such positions, if appropriate.
- (3) If an SRA for the Chair of the Licensing Committee is agreed, whether or not to back date this SRA to the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 in accordance with Regulation 10(6) of The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances)(England) Regulations 2003.

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**IMPLICATIONS**

**Finance and Risk:** Yes  No

**Details:**

Special Responsibility Allowances are paid from within existing budgets. Any additional remuneration agreed by Council will result in an increase to existing budgets.

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**Legal (including Data Protection):** Yes  No

**Details:**

Legal Provisions in relation to Members Allowances are set out in Regulation 10(6) of the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

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**Staffing:** Yes  No

**Details:**

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## DECISION INFORMATION

Decision Information	
<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> 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:  <b>Revenue - £100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £250,000 <input type="checkbox"/></b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
<b>Is the decision subject to Call-In?</b> (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
<b>District Wards Significantly Affected</b>	None
<b>Consultation:</b> <b>Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet <input type="checkbox"/></b> <b>SAMT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/></b> <b>Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></b>	No  Details: IRP

Links to Council Plan priorities or Policy Framework including Climate Change, Equalities, and Economics and Health implications.
Good Governance

## REPORT DETAILS

### 1 Background

- 1.1 The Chair and Vice Chair of Licensing do not currently receive a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA).
- 1.2 Former Independent Remuneration Panels (IRPs) have considered this matter and recommendations have not been forthcoming to consider adopting remuneration for this role. This is on the basis that the Chair of Licensing also held a Cabinet position. This is not now the case and hasn't been for the whole of this corporate year.

1.3 On 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 a newly formed IRP met to consider this matter with a view to making a recommendation to Council.

## **2. Details of Proposal or Information**

2.1 It was considered timely that this matter was reconsidered in light of the workload of this position.

2.2 To that end, information about the role was provided to the IRP by which they were able to determine whether this post should be remunerated, and if so, what sum may be appropriate.

2.3 The information considered included:

- The role and remit of the Licensing Committee;
- The role profile of the Chair of the Licensing Committee.
- The roles of other Chairs, in order to provide a comparison.
- The current meeting schedule, to help the panel to understand the frequency of meetings, and how this compares with other Committees.
- The current SRAs paid to Chairs and Vice Chairs.
- Information about how other authorities remunerate the Chair and Vice Chair of Licensing Committee.
- The rationale for the previous choice not to pay an SRA for this role.

This information is not appended to this report, but it is available to Members on request as background information.

2.4 The Panel asked questions of officers to better understand the role and the extent of the responsibility held by the post-holder. It was considered that the role was commensurate with other special responsibilities within the authority due to factors such as:

- Frequency of chairing duties;
- Delegated powers on which to be consulted; and
- The impact of the work of the committee on people's livelihoods.

In addition, it was noted that North East Derbyshire was the only authority to choose not to remunerate the Chair of Licensing.

## **3 Reasons for Recommendation**

3.1 It is on that basis that the Panel recommended that the role should be remunerated to the same level as the Chair of the Standards Committee (£4,128).

3.2 It was further considered that, should the Council choose to appoint a Vice Chair of Licensing in the future, an SRA commensurate with the remuneration received by the Vice Chair of Standards would be appropriate (£1,373).

#### 4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 The Panel considered the reasons given previously which supported the choice not to remunerate the Chair of Licensing, and deduced that these reasons no longer applied.
- 4.2 The Panel considered different levels of pay for this position, and deemed that the position most closely aligned in responsibility to the Chair of Standards, and therefore rejected options to set the remuneration at the same level as other Chairs.

#### DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
NONE	
<b>Background Papers</b> (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 you must provide copies of the background papers)	
Report to the IRP on 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2022 including:	
Licensing Committee (constitution extract)	
Role of the Licensing Committee Chair (constitution extract)	
Role profiles of other Committee Chairs (constitution extract)	
2021/22 Meeting Schedule	
Current Special Responsibility Allowances (constitution extract)	
Comparative Data on Licensing Chairs	