

TITLE: Establishment of Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP)

Committee: Finance and Assets

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1.0 ISSUE

- 1.1. To consider the undertaking of an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) review of Members Allowances.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1. That approval be given to the conducting of an IRP review of Members Allowances to report to full Council in February 2024.

3.0 BACKGROUND/OPTIONS

- 3.1. At the meeting of full Council on 13 July 2023, a Constitution Review Working Party was established with Terms of Reference including the possibility to consider the recommendations of any IRP convened by February 2024 Council meeting.
- 3.2. The last IRP review was conducted in 2021, meaning that another review needs to be concluded before April 2025.
- 3.3. The 4 Lay members of the currently constituted IRP have been contacted and are willing to conduct a review in the Autumn/Winter of this year.

4.0 ARGUMENTS/CONCLUSION(S)

- 4.1. The conducting of an IRP this Autumn/Winter would enable to Constitutional Review and IRP review to run concurrently and report to the February 2024 full Council meeting and enable any financial implications from the IRP review to be built into the 2024/25 Budget.
- 4.2. Also at least one of the current IRP members has indicated that this will be their last review, meaning that it is likely that a new Panel would need to be constituted if a review was to be conducted in the Autumn/Winter of 2024/25.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS / EQUALITY IMPACT STATEMENT / CARBON IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1. Under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, allowances are payable to the IRP members for the conducting of the review and two public notices need to be published in a local newspaper circulating in the District at different stages of the review. The Council pays £600 to each ordinary IRP Member and £700 to the IRP Chair on delivery of their report and

recommendations. They also can claim mileage at the Inland Revenue rate at 45p per mile. The public notices have cost £600 to £800 each previously. These sums are budgeted for.

- 5.2. The financial implications of any recommended changes to the Members' Allowances Scheme arising from the review will be calculated by the Director Finance and reported to full Council as part of the review process.
- 5.3. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required.
- 5.4. Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA) not required.

6.0 APPENDICES

None.

Background Documents:

Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 and Guidance