

TITLE	: REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL		
TO / ON	: STANDARDS COMMITTEE	25 SEPTEMBER 2003	
	: COUNCIL	5 NOVEMBER 2003	
BY	: CHIEF EXECUTIVE		
STATUS	: FOR PUBLICATION		

1.0 TYPE OF DECISION

1.1 What type of decision is to be taken:-

EXECUTIVE DECISION		COUNCIL DECISION	
Key		Non Key	YES

1.2 If a key decision, has it been included in the Forward Plan

Inclusion in Forward Plan	N/A	Date of Plan	
---------------------------	-----	--------------	--

2.0 SUMMARY

The Independent Remuneration Panel met on 14 August, 2003, to consider whether pensions should be introduced for elected members of Bury Metropolitan Borough Council.

3.0 OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDED OPTIONS (with reasons)

- 1) To advise or recommend to Council what actions if any should be taken on the recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 2) To recommend that the decision of Council should be taken at the first meeting of the Municipal Year 2004/5 due to full Council elections in that year, and the possible inclusion of a number of new Councillors as a result.

4.0 THIS REPORT HAS THE FOLLOWING IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Aims

The level of allowances payable to Elected Members can support their recruitment and retention.

Policy Framework

The level of allowances payable can assist in ensuring that a cross section of the community is represented on the Council.

Statement by Monitoring Officer

Under the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2001, local authorities are required to maintain a panel to make recommendations to the Council about the level of allowances for elected members. Before the Council amends an allowance scheme, it must have regard to the recommendations made by the Panel.

Statement by Director of Finance and E-Government

The total costs could be upto £50,000 per annum. However, this figure would be based on all Members under 70 years of age buying into the Local Government Pension Scheme, and this possibility is considered to be unlikely.

Human Resource IT/Land and Property Implications

None

Wards/Area Boards affected

None

Scrutiny Panel's Interest

None

Consultations

The Panel is advised by the Chief Executive and supported by an officer from Democratic Services.

Call-in

Not applicable.

Briefings

Executive Members/ Chair	None	Chief Executive	None
-----------------------------	------	-----------------	------

5.0 INTRODUCTION

- 5.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel consists of :
- Colin Smith, OBE (Chair), former Chief Executive of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council;
 - Gloria Oates, OBE, former Chief Executive of Oldham NHS Trust and Chair of Oldham MBC Standards Committee;
 - Ronald Schwarz, former Headteacher and current Chair of Bury District Citizens Advice Bureau Service;
 - James Sherry, retired civil servant with the Inland Revenue.

The Panel met on Wednesday 14 August, 2003, to consider whether contributory pensions should be introduced for elected members of the Council and if so for whom.

6.0 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The Local Authorities' (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 provide that a local authority should set out which of its members are entitled to pensions in accordance with a scheme determined in accordance with the Superannuation Act 1972; and whether the Basic Allowance or the Special Responsibility Allowance or both, may be treated as amounts in respect of which such pensions are payable.
- 6.2 In making such a provision, an Authority may only include someone who has first been recommended by the Independent Remuneration Panel.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 Members are asked to consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel contained in the attached report.

Background documents:

Report of the Director of Finance and E-Government to the Independent Remuneration Panel.

For further information on the details of this report, please contact:

Chris Shillitto – Democratic Services – 0161 253 5041