

Meeting:	Standards Committee
Meeting date:	13th September 2021
Title of report:	Independent Renumeration Panel
Report by:	Council's Monitoring Officer
Decision Type:	Council
Ward(s) to which report relates	All

Following discussions at the March Council meeting in which the Council agreed to establish an Independent Remuneration Panel, this report provides an update on proposals to recruit new members of the Panel to advise on a Scheme of Allowances for 2022/23 ahead of the all-out May 2022 Local Elections.

1. Introduction

Each year, the Council must approve a Members' Allowances Scheme before the end of the preceding financial year. Before doing so it must consider the views of its Independent Remuneration Panel.

The Democratic Arrangement Forum gave authority in June for the Monitoring Officer to establish a new Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) to carry out this review of all Member allowances.

2. BACKGROUND AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 2.1 Under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, Local Authorities must establish and maintain an Independent

Remuneration Panel. The purpose of the Panel is to make recommendations to the Local Authority about the allowances to be paid to Members. Council's can not alter or update their schemes without first considering a report from an Independent Remuneration Panel.

2.2 The Regulations require that Independent Remuneration Panels should have at least three members. Members of Panels cannot be Members of any Local Authority in respect of which the Panel makes recommendations and must be independent of the Council. The Panel will be Chaired by Dr Declan Hall who has extensive experience in Chairing IRPs across the country and in Greater Manchester. There will be two other independent members, Dr Andrew Hall Managing Director of Avoira Limited and a Trade Union representative, to be confirmed.

2.4 It was agreed that the Panel be asked to consider the following specific issues:-

- To make recommendations to the Council as to the amount of Basic Allowance that should be payable to its elected members.
- To make recommendations to the Council about the responsibilities or duties which should lead to the payment of a Special Responsibility Allowance and the amount of such an allowance.
- To make recommendations to the Council about other allowances including care of children and other dependents, travel and phone.
- To make recommendations to the Council about the level of allowance paid to co-opted members of the Council's Audit Committee and independent members of the Standards Committee.
- To make recommendations on the level of allowance paid to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the purpose of meeting the expenses of those offices (ie the Mayoral Allowance).
- To make recommendations on the payment of member(s) appointed to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) in respect of duties and responsibilities undertaken as a member of the GMCA, and if so to specify the amount of any such allowance (in accordance with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Order 2011 Schedule 1 - Constitution (Remuneration page 18).
- To consider the level of Travelling, utility and Subsistence Allowances for members of Independent Education Appeals Panels.

METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The Panel seeks the views of Members both written and oral, with an opportunities for selected Members to meet the Panel
- 3.2 Factual Briefings from Officers
- 3.3 The Statutory Guidance on Regulation for Local Authority Allowances 2006.

- 3.4 The 2003 Members' Allowances Regulations
- 3.5 Roles and Responsibilities as contained within the Council's Constitution
- 3.6 That recommendations should conform to existing legislation and anticipate likely future legislation so far as possible.
- 3.7 The requirement for their report and recommended changes to the scheme of allowances to be easy to understand and adequately justifiable to the electorate.

To assist in its deliberations, as background information it is suggested that the Panel be provided with comparative information from other GM authorities.

SUGGESTED TIMELINE

Terms of Reference shared with DAF	June 2021
Review work Panel will spend two days on site interviewing members & relevant officer. Questionnaire will be sent to all Councillors in advance of the Panel commencing work on site.	October 2021
Consideration at Council	24 th November 2021
Implementation date	Annual Council 2022

RECOMMENDATIONS

The members of Standards Committee review the arrangements and provide comments on the terms of reference for the Independent Remuneration Panel, draft itinerary and questionnaire for all Councillors (Aide memoire for interviews and written submissions).