

Appointment of an Independent Remuneration Panel Member

30 September 2020

Report of the Head of Democratic Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To enable Council to make an appointment to the Independent Remuneration Panel following the most recent recruitment exercise.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That Council appoints Mr Ryan Hyde to its Independent Remuneration Panel.**

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) Regulations 2003 require the Council to establish an Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 1.2 An Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) must consist of at least three members, none of whom must be a member of the Council. The Panel is expected to review the Council's Councillor Allowances Scheme every year and carry out a thorough review in the year prior to elections. At the end of the review, the panel makes recommendations to the Council about the allowances to be paid to Members.
- 1.3 IRPs make recommendations about the level of basic allowance for Members; the level of Special Responsibility Allowances and to whom they should be paid and on whether dependants' carers' allowance, travel and subsistence allowances and co-optees' allowances should be paid and the level of those allowances. The Council must have regard to the recommendations of the Panel before making or amending a Members' Allowances Scheme.

2.0 Recruitment Issues

- 2.1 Members will recall that there have been significant issues with recruitment and at Council's last meeting on 29 July 2020, Members agreed to provide a modest allowance to its IRP members, resolving:

That £1,500 per annum be allocated for remuneration for Independent Remuneration Panellists to be divided equally between serving panellists up to a cap of £300 each per annum.

- 2.2 At the same meeting, Council made an appointment to the IRP but noted that one additional member would still be required to make up a quorate panel of three.
- 2.3 A further exercise was undertaken following the July Council meeting, which yielded a suitable candidate who is currently also a member of Wyre Borough Council's IRP, Mr Ryan Hyde. Mr Hyde met with the Head of Democratic Services on 20 August, via teams, to discuss the role and his application.
- 2.4 Mr Hyde was a student at Lancaster Royal Grammar School, and graduated from Corpus Christi College, Oxford University with a Law Degree. He is now a governance professional working for the English Football League Trust, having previously worked for Lancashire County Council in the Democratic Services team.
- 2.5 With his understanding of Councillors Allowances at a district and county level, his legal background and a commitment to public service, Mr Hyde is an eminently suitable candidate. He is recommended to Council for appointment to the Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 2.7 It should be noted that, with the addition of Mr Hyde, the Panel would then be quorate and able to review the Councillors Allowances Scheme in 2020/21.

3.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 Council is recommended to appoint Mr Hyde to its Independent Remuneration Panel. This would give the Council a quorate IRP going forward to review the allowances scheme in 2020/21.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

None directly arising from this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Panel is required to be appointed by the Council, although it is independent of the Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Travel expenses are payable to members of the Independent Remuneration Panel attending meetings. As set out in the report, there is also now an allowance payable of not more than £300 per Panel Member per annum with a total of £1500 available per annum which would fund a maximum of 5 panel members. There are currently two panel members and the appointment of Mr Hyde would make a quorate panel of three.

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Human Resources, Information Services, Property and Open Spaces:

None

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no comments.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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