

CABINET

5 June 2014

APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE RE: MEMBERS ALLOWANCES  
INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

REPORT OF HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Contact Officers: David Blakemore Tel No: 01962 848 217,  
Email: [dblakemore@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:dblakemore@tiscali.co.uk)

RECENT REFERENCES:

None

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The current Members Allowances Scheme will have been in operation for four years by April 2015 and that is the maximum time which a scheme can continue without a full review.

Therefore, a new Members Allowances Independent Remuneration Panel is required to start work this autumn, with a view to making recommendations to the Council meeting on 7 January 2015, which would fit sensibly with the budget process for 2015/16 and an introduction date for the new scheme of 1 April 2015. An advertisement seeking Panel members has already appeared in the Hampshire Chronicle and on the Council's website.

To adhere to this timetable, the membership of the Special Appointments Committee needs to be confirmed by Council on 16 July 2014. In such circumstances, it has been the Council's practice to establish a small special committee of 5 or 6 Members with authority to determine suitable appointments to the Panel.

Because of the compact timescale, the meeting date for the special committee has already been provisionally scheduled for Thursday 24 July 2014 (5pm) for which those Members appointed will hopefully be available. Cabinet Members can serve on the special committee if desired, although spreading the representation outside the executive will be appropriate as the appointments are being made on behalf of Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council appoints a Special Committee (Members Allowances Independent Remuneration Panel) consisting of three or six Members (names to be confirmed at the Council meeting) with the following terms of reference:-

‘To consider all applications received for membership of the Members Allowances Independent Remuneration Panel and to determine the appointments’.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

1 COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER PLANS  
(RELEVANCE TO):

An Efficient and Effective Council.

2 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

On the last occasion in 2010, the Panel consisted of three lay-persons recruited via public advertisement, plus a professional advisor with nationally recognised expertise regarding members allowances. The three lay-persons were each paid a fee of £200 per day for two days (overall total £1200, plus £30 paid of other expenses). The professional advisor (who chaired the Panel and produced the final report) was paid £600 per day (including preparation time) plus £182 paid for additional expenses, totalling £3182 . Sufficient budget provision has been made should the Council wish to follow a similar course on this occasion.

3 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES:

None.

4 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None.

5 APPENDICES:

None.