

Cabinet

22 March 2017



Title	Appointment of an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP)		
Purpose of the report	To make a recommendation to Council		
Report Author	Gillian Hobbs		
Cabinet Member	Councillor Ian Harvey	Confidential	No
Corporate Priority	This item is not in the current list of Corporate priorities but still requires a Cabinet decision		
Recommendations	Cabinet is asked to recommend that Council approves the appointment of the Independent Remuneration Panel.		
Reason for Recommendation	The Council is required to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel consisting of at least three members, none of whom is formally connected with the Council.		

1. Key issues

- 1.1 Under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, the Council is required to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel (the Panel). The Regulations require that the Panel shall consist of at least three members, none of whom is formally connected with the Council.
- 1.2 The Panel undertakes the task of annually reviewing the Members' Allowances Scheme and making recommendations to the Council about the allowances to be paid to elected councillors.
- 1.3 The existing Panel of three members, who had served for three years, resigned in October 2016 and it is now necessary for the Council to consider appointing a new Panel.
- 1.4 The statutory guidance on members' allowances requires Councils to adopt an appointments process which best results in the Panel membership being truly independent and well-qualified to discharge its functions and be representative of the diversity of the communities in the local authority's area.
- 1.5 An advert was placed in the Surrey Advertiser on 14 October 2016 and an information pack giving much more detail about the role and purpose of the Panel was placed on the Council's website.
- 1.6 Letters were sent from the Chief Executive to members of the business community, drawing their attention to the information on the website and inviting them to consider applying for the role.

- 1.7 As a result of this publicity two applications were received, however, one regrettably later made the decision to withdraw due to a potential conflict of interest.
- 1.8 The vacancies were advertised on Facebook and Twitter on 31 October and resulted in two applications. One of these was rejected by the Monitoring Officer due to the applicant's past political connections with the Council.
- 1.9 Having only two valid applications an advert was placed on Jobs Go Public for two weeks on 14 November 2016. This did not result in any applications.
- 1.10 A further suitable candidate was subsequently identified.

2. Options analysis and proposal

- 2.1 The three potential candidates: Sir Ivan Lawrence QC, Colin Squire and George McLaughlin were interviewed by the Head of Corporate Governance.
- 2.2 All three candidates met the criteria in terms of:
 - Their independence from any connection with the Council.
 - Their knowledge of the way local government works, and/or
 - Their own personal and direct experience of the business community.
- 2.3 The three proposed Panel members bring diverse experience to the role from their backgrounds in central Government, local business and local authorities. Their detailed CVs have been made available in the Members' Room and summaries are attached at Appendix 1.

3. Financial implications

- 3.1 The local authority is able to pay expenses to Panel members. These expenses are for the local authority to determine but historically only out of pocket expenses for attending meetings have been paid.

4. Other considerations

- 4.1 In accordance with Equality and Diversity, none of the applicants may be ruled out on the grounds of their age, gender, race or religious persuasion.

5. Timetable for implementation

- 5.1 Subject to Council approval at its meeting on 27 April 2017, the Panel will be able to commence its work immediately.

Background papers: There are none.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Summary CVs of applicants