

RECORD OF DECISION MADE UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

PUBLIC DOCUMENT

Any interest to declare/ or conflict and any dispensation granted - n/a

SERVICE DIRECTORATE: Legal and Community

1. DECISION TAKEN

To appoint the following to the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) for a period of 4 years from 11 February 2019:

- Stephen Vinall;
- Christopher Clark; and
- Dr Hazel Bentall.

2. DECISION TAKER

Jeanette Thompson as Service Director: Legal and Community in consultation with Ian Couper, Service Director: Resources and Group Leaders as to independence as per section 14.6.9 a) (xxx) of the Constitution.

3. DATE DECISION TAKEN:

5 February 2019.

4. REASON FOR DECISION

4.1 To ensure that the Council has a quorate IRP to undertake the annual assessment of Member's Allowances.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 None appropriate.

6. CONSULTATION (INCLUDING THE EFFECT ON STAKEHOLDERS, PARTNERS AND THE PUBLIC)

6.1 Consultation has taken place with all three Group Leaders before candidates were offered a position on the IRP as to the candidates independence (details of the candidates and background were supplied). No objections were received regarding the proposed appointments.

7. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

7.1. The background to the need for such appointments is part set out in the Members Allowances Scheme 2019/20 report of 22 November 2018¹ to Full Council. The Council only has one current IRP member, undertook a recruitment exercise in September/ October 2018 and unfortunately did not receive any applications. At that stage no payments were made to IRP members and the Service Director therefore sought Full Council's approval for such payments on 22 November and this was approved. It was indicated to Full Council that following the decision neighbouring authorities would be approached to see if any of their IRP members would like to apply for the NHDC IRP.

7.2. That approach was adopted and following this three applications were received. All had to meet eligibility criteria – which included a requirement that a person is not a member or has affiliations to a political party. References were sought for all and the Service Directors interviewed all three candidates on 25 January and concluded that the selection criteria had been met and that the candidates were suitable for a role on the IRP. All three currently sit on the Hertfordshire County Council IRP, and one of the candidates, Dr Hazel Bentall also sits on Watford Borough Council and Chiltern District Councils' IRPs.

¹ [Item 9 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2019/20 report](#)

7.3. Group Leaders were then contacted on 25 January 2019, provided with details of the candidates and asked to confirm if they had any concerns regarding independence. No objections were received. Offers were therefore made on Friday 1 February (to ensure there was interest in accepting the roles) and following that confirmation received the decision has been made to appoint all three accordingly for 4 years from 11 February 2019.

7.4. A review of Members Allowances will be commenced in the new municipal year.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1. Section 14.6.9 a) (xxx) of the Constitution provides that the Service Director: Legal and Community has the delegated function to appoint the members of the Independent Remuneration Panel, having first consulted the Chief Finance Officer and Group Leaders as to any reason why member(s) are not independent.

8.2. The Council must approve Members Allowances annually under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003/1021 (as amended). It has to have an IRP to do so and the minimum number for such a Panel is three.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 As per the Council's decision of 22 November 2018, IRP members are to be paid an honorarium of £500 per year for any year that a Panel reviews and prepares a report on Members Allowances (and will also receive reasonable travel and subsistence).

10. RISK IMPLICATIONS

10.1 None relevant to this decision, other than failure to appoint sufficient members to the IRP would result in not being able to undertake a review of Members Allowances.

11. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no equalities implications.

12. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

12.1 The Social Value Act and "go local" policy do not apply to this decision.

13. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

13.1 There are no human resource implications, other than those set out.

14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

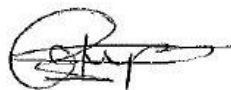
14.1 Recruitment information pack.

15. NOTIFICATION DATE

15.1 8 February 2019.



Signature of Decision Taker



Consulted:
Signature of the Chief Finance Officer

This decision is a NON-EXECUTIVE DECISIONS and is not subject to call in.