



Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 To approve the appointment of two additional members on the Independent Remuneration Panel for Members' Allowances; to authorise the Director of Corporate and Adult Services, in conjunction with the Chair and Vice Chair, to make the appointments; and to request a report back on the appointments made.
- 1.2 To approve the payment of an attendance allowance of £50 a meeting to Panel Members, in addition to travel and subsistence expenses.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Council's Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances (IRP) currently has five members. Appendix 2 gives information about the IRP.
- 2.2 The Panel considers that it would be useful if the Council appointed two additional members to the IRP in order to provide a wider base of experience and expertise and to ensure the availability of a reasonable number of members at its meetings.
- 2.3 Regulations and statutory guidance prescribe that the IRP must have a minimum of three members. There is no maximum. Appendix 2 sets out the qualifications for IRP members.
- 2.4 It is recommended that the Committee agrees to the appointment of two additional members to the IRP. The Council has keen seen to ensure that women, minority groups and disabled people are represented on the Panel. It is suggested that applications are invited through the media and the Council's Diversity Forums.
- 2.5 IRP members serve for a three year period of office and are eligible for re-appointment. Retirement dates are staggered to ensure continuity.
- 2.6 The regulations and statutory guidance allow authorities to pay IRP members such allowances as they may determine. Currently the Council pays travel and subsistence expenses but it is felt that this does not adequately or fairly recognise the time commitment expected of Panel members. Appendix 3 gives the results of a recent survey which shows that just over half of authorities pay an allowance or fee in addition to expenses.

- 2.7 Derby's IRP is about to embark on a fundamental review of Members' Allowances, including several days of evidence gathering, and it is recommended that the Council now introduces an attendance allowance of £50 a meeting. Such an allowance would be offered to the IRP members and it would be up to them whether or not they claimed it.
- 2.8 The IRP is considering whether to recommend a Co-optees Allowance for Independent Members of the Standards Committee to recognise the significant increase in that Committee's work following the introduction of the new local assessment framework for complaints against councillors.

For more information contact:	Steve Dunning 01332 255462 e-mail steve.dunning@derby.gov.uk
Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Information about the IRP Appendix – 3 Results of Survey of Other Authorities

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 The cost of attendance allowances paid to members of the IRP can be contained within the Members' Allowances budget.

Legal

- 2.1 As set out in Appendix 2.

Personnel

- 3.1 None.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 The recruitment process will be conducted in a way which encourages candidates from groups who are under-represented on the IRP.

Corporate priorities

- 5.1 None.

DERBY CITY COUNCIL
INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR
MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

City councillors (also known as 'Members') are entitled to receive certain allowances to recognise the time and effort they put into the work involved in carrying out their duties and responsibilities. The main allowances are:

- Basic Allowance, paid to all councillors
- Special Responsibility Allowance, paid to these councillors who have special responsibilities
- Dependant Carer's Allowance, paid to those councillors who incur expenses in arranging for the care of dependants while carrying out their duties
- Travelling and Subsistence Allowance.

It is a legal requirement that, before approving or amending its scheme of allowances, the Council must consider the recommendations of an independent panel set up specifically for this purpose. This panel is known as the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances.

Members of the Panel are not paid a fee but they may claim travelling and subsistence allowances. Meetings are normally held in the daytime and there are normally two or three meetings a year. The Panel has five members.

There are certain restrictions on who may be a member of an Independent Remuneration Panel. A member of the Panel must not ...

1. be a member of Derby City Council, i.e. a city councillor
2. be a member of any of the City Council's committees or sub committees. This includes co-opted members
3. be disqualified from being a member of a local authority
4. have connections with a political party
5. be a relative or friend of a city councillor

With regard to 3. above, a person is disqualified if he or she is ...

- an employee of the local authority or a joint committee of the authority
- an undischarged bankrupt
- someone who within the last five years, has been convicted of an offence with a custodial sentence (whether suspended or not) of not less than three months without the option of a fine
- someone who has been disqualified as a result of a surcharge by a local authority external auditor, or a corrupt or illegal election practice.

Panel members do not necessarily have to be residents of the city but should have a connection with the city.

The Council has a policy of approaching various stakeholders in the city to see if they would be prepared to nominate suitable people as members of the Panel for consideration by the Council. In certain circumstances, it also considers the appointment of an individual person who has appropriate experience.

The Council is keen to ensure that its Panel is truly independent, and seen to be independent, in the perception of the citizens of Derby. It would particularly welcomes nominations from minority ethnic people, disabled people and women as these groups tend to be under-represented on the Panel.

An informal interview is held with the nominee, to explain the role of a Panel member and ensure he/she is not disqualified from membership.

The current membership of the Panel is:

Name	Position	Representing
Ian Samways (Chair)		Individual Member
Sue Holmes (Vice Chair)	Chief Executive, Citizens Advice and Law Centre	Millennium Network
Helen Foord	Senior HR Business Partner, Rolls-Royce Ltd	Derby City Partnership
Martyn Holden	Human Resources Director	University of Derby
Nigel Sutherland	Director, Brigdens Ltd	Chamber of Trade

Members serve for a three year period and are eligible for re-appointment. If the member resigns or does not wish to continue at the end of his/her term of office, a fresh nomination is sought from the relevant stakeholder organisation or, in the case of a individual member, by some other appropriate means determined by the Audit and Accounts Committee.

August 2008

INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FEES/ALLOWANCES

Authority	Allowance Paid (annual unless otherwise stated)	To Whom
	£	
Swindon	£200 + expenses	Independent Members
Plymouth	£500 one-off for review in 2008	Independent Members
Nottingham	£50 a meeting	Independent Members
Bedford	None, just expenses	Independent Members
North Somerset	None, just expenses	Independent Members
Birmingham	£1350	Chair
	£1080	Independent Members
Torbay	£160.25 a meeting	Independent Members
Darlington	Fee to INLOGOV	Chair
	£138.75 a day	Independent Members
Reading	None	
Portsmouth	None	
Blackburn with Darwen	None	
Leicester	Fee to outside adviser	
Peterborough	£1036.73	Chair
	Expenses	Independent Members

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