

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Constitution Committee

Date of Meeting: 26th January 2012
Report of: Democratic Services and Registration Manager
Subject/Title: Re-Appointment of Independent Remuneration Panel

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The report invites the Committee to confirm the appointment of five individuals to Cheshire East Council's Independent Remuneration Panel.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the five individuals to be named at the meeting be appointed to sit on Cheshire East Council's Independent Remuneration Panel for a period of three years; and
- 2.2 That a vote of thanks be recorded to the outgoing members of the Panel (Mr David Routs, Professor Michael Burdekin, Mrs Jan Charles, Mrs Christine Crowe and Mr Peter Foden) for their service to the Council.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The term of office for the existing Panel members expired on 1 December 2011 and the Council is now required to re-appoint an Independent Remuneration Panel.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 Not applicable

6.0 Policy Implications including

- 6.1 No policy implications have been identified

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 Individuals appointed to sit on the Independent Remuneration Panel are entitled to claim a meeting allowance of £30 plus reasonable travel and subsistence expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. As the

number of individuals on the Independent Remuneration Panel has not changed, there are no financial implications in respect of the appointments.

8.0 Legal Implications

8.1 Failure to re-appoint an Independent Remuneration Panel would result in the Council being in breach of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

9.0 Risk Management

9.1 No significant risks have been identified.

9.2 The appointment of an Independent Remuneration Panel will ensure that the Council receives independent advice on the level of allowances which should be paid to reflect the time and commitment of elected Members.

10.0 Background

10.1 The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 requires the Council to establish an Independent Remuneration Panel ('the Panel') for the purpose of making recommendations to it ('the Council') on the amount of allowances which should be paid to elected members.

10.2 The existing Panel, comprising five independent individuals was appointed by the former Governance and Constitution Committee on 1 December 2008 to serve for a period of three years. As the Panel's term of office came to an end in December 2011, arrangements were put in place to re-appoint the Panel.

11.0 Appointment Process

11.1 To ensure that the Panel is independent of the Council, restrictions are placed on who can apply to sit on the Panel. Individuals cannot be a member if they -

- are a member of any of the local authorities (borough or parish) in respect of which the Panel makes recommendations;
- would be disqualified from being a Councillor of any local authority;
- are a member of a political party;
- are a close relative or friend of any elected member of the Council.

11.2 To advertise the vacancies on the Panel, a press release seeking expressions of interest from applicants was issued on 30 November 2011 which was reported in the local press. The release was also displayed on the Council's website. In addition, an e-mail shot was undertaken to alert the borough's business community and appropriate partners to this opportunity in order to attract a wide variety of candidates.

11.3 A number of application packs explaining the role of the Panel and its Members, were issued in response to enquires received. Due to a significant number of enquiries being received close to the original closing date of 23 December 2011, the deadline for return of applications was extended to 6 January 2012. In total, 8 application forms have been returned for consideration.

12. Appointment of Candidates

12.1 Interviews for the five posts are to be held on Thursday, 19th January 2012; the names of the preferred candidates will be reported at the meeting.

13.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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