

TITLE	Re-Appointment of Independent Remuneration Panel Members
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Council on 17 November 2016
WARD	None Specific
LEAD OFFICER	Andrew Moulton, Head of Governance and Improvement Services

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

To ensure transparency, openness and scrutiny of the Members scheme of allowances and enable Wokingham Borough Council to fulfil its annual statutory obligation to review the remuneration paid to its elected Members.

RECOMMENDATION

Council is recommended to re-appoint Brian Shearing and Nikki Measures to the Independent Remuneration Panel for a period of 3 years, commencing on 22 November 2016.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report updates the Council on the situation regarding its Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) and recommends that two current Members of the IRP be re-appointed.

Background

1. In accordance with legislation Councils are required to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel which will broadly have the functions of providing the local authority with advice on its Members' Allowances scheme and the amounts to be paid. Local authorities must have regard to this advice.
2. Following a recruitment process, carried out in accordance with the process set out in the Constitution, four volunteer members of the public came forward and were appointed to serve on the panel at Council on 21 November 2013. It was also decided that the Council would appoint five panel members and a fifth volunteer was accordingly appointed at Council on 20 February 2014. In order to avoid the problems that might be caused by all five appointments terminating at the same time, it was recommended that three members be appointed for three years and two members be appointed for four years.
3. The three-year term for Brian Shearing and Nikki Measures will elapse on 22 November 2016 and it is therefore recommended that they be re-appointed for a further three years.
4. Information on the panel members is as follows:

Brian Shearing has been a resident of Wokingham Borough for more than 34 years. Brian is a graduate in Mathematics and Statistics and holds fellowships in the Chartered Insurance Institute, the Pensions Management Institute and the Institute of Directors. For 25 years he was employed by companies within the financial services sector – life assurance companies, fund management, pensions and banking. For the last 24 years he has run his own management consultancy specialising in the provision of services to financial institutions. He was a Governor of Waingels Copse School (now Waingels College) until 2000. (3 year appointment recommended).

Nikki Measures has been a resident of Wokingham Borough for the last 13 years. She qualified as a Chartered Accountant at the National Audit Office before moving into training and human resources. She is currently a senior HR Manager. Nikki has numerous links with the community through her children's schooling and extra-curricular activities. (3 Year appointment recommended).
5. A recruitment process will commence shortly to appoint a new Panel Member to replace Malcolm Saffin; who is standing down when his term of office elapses on 21 February 2017.
6. The remaining two positions on the panel will elapse in November 2017 so a process to re-appoint them will be followed before that date.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	£0		
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	£0		
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	£0		

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

There are no financial implications related to this report.

Cross-Council Implications

There are no cross-Council implications related to this report.

List of Background Papers

- 1) Sections 173 to 178 of the Local Government Act 1972
- 2) Section 18 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 (as amended by section 99 of the Local Government Act 2000)
- 3) Section 100 of the Local Government Act 2000
- 4) Wokingham Borough Council Constitution Section 2.2.3

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