

Title of Report	APPOINTMENT TO THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL (IRP)	
Presented by	Councillor Keith Merrie Infrastructure Portfolio Holder	
Background Papers	Part 4 of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 – Independent Remuneration Panels	Public Report: Yes
Financial Implications	Under the council's Members Allowance Scheme, co-opted Members of the Independent Remuneration Panel receive reasonable expenses incurred in attending meetings and in addition a small remuneration of £200.00 per annum. These costs are met from within existing budgets.	
	Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes	
Legal Implications	Regulation 20 of the Local Government (Members Allowances) Regulations 2003 (the Regulations) require the Council to appoint an Independent Remuneration Panel to consider the matter of members allowances.	
	Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: Yes	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	There are no direct staffing or corporate implications arising.	
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes	
Purpose of Report	To endorse the appointment of the Independent Remuneration Panel.	
Recommendations	<p>THAT COUNCIL:</p> <p>1) MAKES THE APPOINTMENTS TO THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL AS DETAILED IN PARAGRAPH 2.4 OF THE REPORT;</p> <p>AND</p> <p>2) ASKS THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL TO WRITE TO THE TWO MEMBERS OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL WHO ARE STANDING DOWN AT THE END OF THE TERM, TO THANK THEM FOR THEIR SERVICE ON THE PANEL</p>	

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 It is a legislative requirement for all councils to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel to make recommendations to the Council on the Members' Allowance Scheme and the nature and level of allowances to be paid to its elected members. The work of the panel includes receiving reports from Officers, considering statutory guidance, considering representations from councillors as appropriate and using comparative evidence to formulate recommendations on appropriate levels of allowances for consideration by the Council.
- 1.2 The Council cannot amend or update its Members' Allowance Scheme without first considering a report from the Independent Remuneration Panel, however, it does not have to accept the recommendations put forward.
- 1.3 In order to maintain the independence of the Independent Remuneration Panel, in line with the Member Protocol agreed by Council in 2015, and as set out in the council's Constitution, members should not be:
 - a person who has within the period of five years before receiving the date of appointment been a councillor or officer of the council; and
 - a person who is a relative or close friend of a councillor or officer of the council.
 - a person who does not either live or work in the District.
- 1.4. The Council's Panel comprises four members. In November 2020, the Council agreed to extend the term of office of the current panel to 11 November 2024. The current membership of the Panel is:

Mrs M Dadley
Mrs E Oldham
Mr S Barkby
Mr T Moore

2.0 RECRUITMENT PROCESS

- 2.1 The Regulations do not stipulate how the IRP members should be appointed but provide that the panel shall consist of at least three members, none of whom are also a member of an authority in respect of which it makes recommendations or is a member of a committee or sub-committee of such an authority, or is disqualified from being or becoming a member of an authority.:
- 2.2 In August/September 2024, the four vacancies were advertised in the Coalville and Ashby Times and publicised on the council's website. The current panel members were also given the opportunity to reapply for the roles.
- 2.3 Two of the current members have taken the decision that the time is right to step away from the panel and not re-apply for the roles on the panel. Mrs Elaine Oldham and Mrs Margaret Dadley have both served on the panel for 19 years and eight years respectively. It is proposed that a thank you letter for the work that they have done on the panel is sent to them by the Chair of the Council.

2.4 A robust application and selection process was conducted by the Chief Executive and Democratic Services Team Manager. Due to unforeseen circumstances, one of the roles had not been filled in time for ratification by Council and officers have ensured that a process is in place for a report to be brought back to Council in February 2025 to ratify the final member of the panel.

2.5 The following persons are proposed for membership of the IRP for the term of office 18 November 2024 to 17 November 2028.

- Mr T Moore
- Mr S Barkby
- Mrs S Barnett

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	A well-run council
Policy Considerations:	Constitution
Safeguarding:	N/A
Equalities/Diversity:	The application process was open to anyone who met the essential criteria set out in para 1.3
Customer Impact:	NA
Economic and Social Impact:	N/A
Environment, Climate Change and zero carbon:	N/A
Consultation/Community Engagement:	N/A
Risks:	An up to date Constitution is a legal requirement
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