

<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT TO THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL (IRP)</b>	
<b>Presented by</b>	Councillor Keith Merrie Infrastructure Portfolio Holder	
<b>Background Papers</b>	<a href="#">Part 4 of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 – Independent Remuneration Panels</a>	<b>Public Report:</b> Yes
<b>Financial Implications</b>	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.	
	<b>Signed off by the Section 151 Officer:</b> Yes	
<b>Legal Implications</b>	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.	
	<b>Signed off by the Monitoring Officer:</b> Yes	
<b>Staffing and Corporate Implications</b>	There are no direct staffing or corporate implications arising.	
	<b>Signed off by the Head of Paid Service:</b> Yes	
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To endorse the appointment of the Independent Remuneration Panel.	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>THAT COUNCIL APPOINTS KAREN BOWLER TO THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL</b>	

## 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;
  - a person who is a relative or close friend of a councillor or officer of the Council; and/or
  - a person who does not either live or work in the District.
- 1.4. At its last meeting, Council appointed three members of the panel and was advised that due to unforeseen circumstances, one of the roles had not been filled in time for ratification at that meeting and that a further report would be brought to the next meeting.
- 1.5 Since November, the Chief Executive and the Democratic Services Team Manager have met with the final candidate for the position on the panel, following the same selection process as carried out with the three appointed members.
- 1.6 Following a successful application, Karen Bowler is proposed for membership of the IRP for the term of office 21 February 2025 to 17 November 2028.

<b>Policies and other considerations, as appropriate</b>	
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
Officer Contact	Kate Hiller Head of Legal and Support Services <a href="mailto:kate.hiller@nwleicestershire.gov.uk">kate.hiller@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</a>