

Ward: ALL

Portfolio: Cross Cutting

FROM: Deputy Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer **Date: 15 May 2017**

SUBJECT: Appointment of Independent Person to the Somerset Joint Independent Remuneration Panel

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Report Sign off	Seen by:	Name	Date
	Legal	Donna Nolan	27.04.17
	Finance	Paul Deal	21.04.17
	Chief Executive	Stuart Brown	28.04.17
Summary:	<p>The Council is required to make a scheme providing for allowances to be paid to Members each year in accordance with Regulations. In making this scheme Members must take into account the recommendations of the Somerset Joint Independent Remuneration Panel.</p> <p>Members may recall that on 2 October 2014 Council agreed to appoint Graham Russell as Mendip's representative on the Somerset Joint Independent Remuneration Panel. This appointment was for a 3 year term which will expire later this year.</p>		
Recommendation:	<p>That Council re-appoint Graham Russell as the Council's representative on Somerset's Joint Independent Remuneration Panel for a further period of 3 years commencing on 2 October 2017.</p>		
Direct and/or indirect impact on service delivery to our customers and communities:	<p>The payment of a Member's allowance contributes to the Council's ability to attract a diverse range of Councillors, which is essential to ensure the views of a wide range of communities are represented.</p>		
Financial Implications:	<p>The resource associated with this matter must be delivered within existing budgets.</p> <p>If the proposal is adopted there is likely to be some limited financial savings to the Council as a result of not having to advertise and appoint a new Representative.</p>		

Legal Implications:	As outlined in this report.
Crime and Disorder Implications:	None
Equalities Implications:	There are no direct impacts in terms of the Equalities Act 2010 on Members, Officers or the provision of services as a result of the report.
Risk Assessment and Adverse Impact on Corporate Actions:	<p>The key risk is that the Council does not meet its statutory requirements in respect of Members allowance.</p> <p>This report mitigates this risk.</p>

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Provisions in relation to allowances for elected Members including the role of the Independent Remuneration Panel are set out in Regulations.

The Somerset Joint Independent Remuneration Panel was formed in February 2014. Mendip joined the Somerset Joint Independent Remuneration Panel in May 2014. Members may recall that on 2 October 2014 the Council agreed to appoint Graham Russell as the Council's representative on the Somerset Joint Independent Remuneration Panel. This appointment was for a 3 year term and will expire later this year.

The only legislative requirement is that each Council must ensure that the panel commands public confidence in the locality, is truly independent of each Council, is well qualified to discharge the required functions and is representative of the diversity of the communities in the local authority's area. The Council must take these points into consideration when making its appointment to the Somerset joint Independent Remuneration Panel.

Graham Russell is the former head of Democratic Services at Bath and North East Somerset Council. Since he retired Graham has been Chairman of the South West Independent Remuneration Panel meeting for Chairs and Advisors, as well as an advisor for the SW Councils. It is thus considered that Graham Russell is very well qualified to contribute positively and ensure discharge of the legislative requirements associated with the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council re-appoint Graham Russell as the Council's representative on Somerset's Joint Independent Remuneration Panel for a further period of 3 years, from 2 October 2017.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To ensure the Council have a representative on the Somerset Joint Independent Remuneration Panel.

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