



CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE – 22nd NOVEMBER 2019

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL ON MEMBER ANNUAL REPORTS AND GROUP WHIPS' ALLOWANCE

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present the findings of the Independent Remuneration Panel (the Panel) following its review of the submission of annual reports by members and the group whip allowances since its last meeting in the autumn of 2018. The Committee is invited to consider the report and recommendations to the County Council.

Background

2. The statutory framework for members' allowances includes the following requirements:
 - Each local authority is required to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel with the function of providing the local authority with advice on its members allowance scheme and the amounts to be paid. Local authorities must have regard to this advice.
 - The approval of a members' allowances scheme has to be determined by the full Council and cannot be delegated to the Cabinet or a committee.
 - A scheme for members' allowances may be amended at any time but may only be revoked at the end of the financial year, i.e. 31 March. A further scheme must be available to replace the revoked scheme.
3. The County Council's Independent Remuneration Panel last met in the autumn of 2018 to review member annual reports and group whip allowances. At that time, it recommended that members should continue to submit an annual report and that group whip allowances should remain at existing levels. This was agreed by the full County Council in December 2018.

4. The Panel further outlined its intention to reconvene in 12 months to review the position. The outcome of that review is as set out in the report appended.
5. Professor David Wilson who had served as Chairman of the Panel since 1999 indicated his wish to resign from the Panel. Using delegated powers the Chief Executive appointed Mr Michael Pearson as Chairman of the Panel and Mr Gordon Grimes as a member of the Panel.

Resources Implications

6. None

Equal Opportunities Implications

7. None

Recommendation

8. The Committee is asked to determine what recommendations it wishes to put forward to the County Council in response to the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Member Annual Reports and Group Whips' Allowance.

Background Papers

None.

Circulation Under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

None.

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Appendices

Appendix – Report of Independent Remuneration Panel