

**Agenda Item No:** 6  
**Report To:** Selection And Constitutional Review Committee  
**Date:** 14<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2010  
**Report Title:** Extension of Term of Appointment of Member of the Independent Remuneration Panel  
**Report Author:** Head of Legal & Democratic Services



<b>Summary:</b>	To seek agreement to extend the term of appointment of a Member of the Independent Remuneration Panel to 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2013.
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**Key Decision:** NO

**Affected Wards:** N/A

**Recommendations:** To recommend to the Full Council that the term of appointment for one of the Members of the Independent Remuneration Panel, namely Mrs Judy Blount, be extended to the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2013.

**Policy Overview:** The Local Authorities (Member's Allowances) (England) Regulations 2001 require Councils 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. The Ashford Panel also serve as the Interview Panel for Independent Members of the Standards Committee.

**Financial Implications:** N/A

**Other Material Implications:** N/A

**Exemption Clauses:** N/A

**Background Papers:** Nil

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Member of the Independent Remuneration  
Panel**

**Issue to be Decided**

1. The term of appointment of one of the members of the Independent Remuneration Panel expires on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2010 and authority is therefore being sought to extend the period of appointment for a further three year period.

**Background**

2. Pursuant to Minute No. 694/5/02 Mrs Judy Blount was appointed as a member of the Independent Remuneration Panel for a five period to October 2007. At that time it was agreed that Panel members could serve a further period and for such periods to be agreed by the Democratic Services Manager in liaison with the Panel members. In 2007 it was agreed to stagger the appointments of the three members for three, four and five years respectively. This was to try and ensure that in the future there were always at least two members of the Panel who had some previous experience. Mrs Blount was appointed for three years so her appointment is the first to expire.

Mrs Blount has indicated that she would be willing to serve a further term, and it is therefore suggested that the existing period of appointment be extended for a further three years to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2013.

**Consideration**

3. The Local Authorities (Member's Allowances) (England) Regulations 2001 require Councils 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. The Ashford Panel also serve as the Interview Panel for Independent Members of the Standards Committee. Ashford's Panel is comprised of three local people and made up from representatives from: - The Business Sector (by way of the Ashford Chamber of Commerce and Industry); The Trade Union Sector (retired Transport and General Workers Union representative); and the Community/Voluntary Sector (a retired Head Teacher/Churches Together in Ashford). Mrs Blount serves as the Voluntary Sector representative.
4. It is Officers' view that they would like to, where possible, re-appoint members to retain knowledge, expertise and experience. This is also in recognition of the positive contribution of the existing Panel members who have undertaken their tasks with a high degree of professionalism and understanding of the issues they have considered. To go through another recruitment and selection process at this time when the Council has the opportunity to retain a member and ensure continuity seems unnecessary. The Panel has met very infrequently (five times since 2002), so it is considered that extended service would not affect the impartiality of the members.

5. The Council previously agreed that to safeguard the Council and ensure the integrity of the Independent Remuneration Panel's work, that if circumstances arise whereby any Panel member becomes discredited and the Council wishes to remove that person from membership of the Panel, i.e. if for example a Panel member was found guilty of a criminal offence, then the Council may terminate such appointment. This provision may not be invoked to change a Panel member for any political or vexatious ends.

#### **Handling**

6. Subject to Council agreeing to extend the term of appointment, the member will be advised accordingly.

#### **Conclusion**

7. That it be recommended to the Full Council on the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2010 that the term of appointment for Mrs Judy Blount as a member of the Independent Remuneration Panel, be extended to the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2013.

#### **Portfolio Holder's Views**

8. Nil as the appointment of members to the Independent Remuneration Panel is a whole Council function.