

**Agenda Item No:** 7  
**Report To:** Selection & Constitutional Review Committee  
**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015  
**Report Title:** Extension of Term of Appointment of Member of the Independent Remuneration Panel  
**Report Author:** Head of Legal & Democratic Services  
Danny Sheppard – Senior Member Services Officer  
**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Clarkson – Leader of the Council



**Summary:** To seek agreement to extend the term of appointment of a Member of the Independent Remuneration Panel to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018.

**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 Mr Mike Eede, be extended to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018.**

**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.

**Financial Implications:** N/A

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## **Extension of Term of Appointment of 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 2015 and authority is therefore being sought to extend the appointment for a further three year period.

### **Background**

2. Pursuant to Minute No. 694/5/02 Mr Mike Eede was appointed as a member of the Independent Remuneration Panel for a five year period to October 2007. This was subsequently extended by three years to 2010. In 2010, when the appointments last came up for consideration, it was agreed to stagger the appointments of the three positions 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. Mr Eede was appointed for five years so his appointment is about to expire.
3. Mr Eede has indicated that he 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 2018.

### **Consideration**

4. The Local Authorities (Members 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 has also in the past served 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 a now retired Ashford Chamber of Commerce and Industry representative); The Trade Union Sector (retired Transport and General Workers Union representative); and the Community and Voluntary Sector. Mr Eede serves as the Trade Union Sector representative.
5. 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 additional 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 (seen times since 2002), so it is considered that extended service would not affect the impartiality of the members.

6. It is also worth noting that this is currently a vacancy on the Panel (Community Voluntary Sector representative). This will need to be filled before the Panel meets again.
7. 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 a Panel member becomes discredited and the Council wished 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**

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

### **Conclusion**

9. That it be recommended to the Full Council on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015 that the term of appointment for Mr Mike Eede as a member of the Independent Remuneration Panel, be extended to the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018.

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

10. Not applicable as the appointment of members to the Independent Remuneration Panel is a whole Council function.

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