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| Report subject | Independent Remuneration Panel |
| Meeting date | 5 November 2019 |
| Status | Public Report |
| Executive summary | <p>This report seeks the agreement of the Council to delegate the appointment of the Independent Remuneration Panel to the Council's Monitoring Officer and to recruitment of replacement panel members as vacancies arise.</p> <p>When the Shadow Authority approved the scheme of members' allowances in February 2019, it was acknowledged that a review would be required during the first twelve months of the new Council's existence once the roles within the BCP Council were fully established and the work and responsibilities had been fully identified.</p> <p>It is therefore necessary to formally appoint a Panel for BCP Council to undertake the review which will report back to Council at its meeting scheduled for 18 February 2020.</p> |
| Recommendations | <p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>the recruitment and appointment of an Independent Remuneration Panel be delegated to the Monitoring Officer.</p> |
| Reason for recommendations | <p>The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2003 provide that a Council establish a Panel which is independent to consider the level of Members Allowances to be applied. A review of the scheme is required to be undertaken and it is therefore necessary to appoint a Panel to carry out the review.</p> |

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| Portfolio Holder(s): | Councillor Vikki Slade, Leader of the Council |
| Corporate Director | Julian Osgathorpe (Corporate Director of Resources) |
| Report Authors | Richard Jones, Head of Democratic Services |
| Wards | Authority-wide |
| Classification | For Decision |

Background

1. The Local Authorities' (Members' Allowances) (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2003 requires that the Council uses the services of an Independent Remuneration Panel to consider the level of Members' Allowances to be operated by the Council.
2. The Regulations require that an Independent Panel shall be established and that it shall consist of at least three independent people who do not sit as elected members of the relevant councils.
3. Within a Scheme of Members' Allowances all members are entitled to receive a Basic Allowance. This allowance is intended to recognise the community representative role that members undertake. The Scheme also recognises that some members have special responsibilities attached to the roles they perform within the Council. For example, the role of the Leader, Executive Members, Chairmen of Council and Committees.
4. When the Shadow Authority approved the current scheme of members' allowances in February 2019, it was acknowledged that a review would be required during the first twelve months of the new Council's existence once the roles within the BCP Council were established and the work and responsibilities had been fully identified.
5. It is therefore necessary to formally appoint a Panel for BCP Council to undertake the review which will report back to Council at its meeting scheduled for 18 February 2020.

Consultation

6. Following the appointment of the Panel it is anticipated that the Panel will invite comments from members of the Council by way of a questionnaire. It is also anticipated that the Panel will undertake some more detailed interviews with individual members, particularly those with special responsibilities.

Summary of financial implications

7. The outcome of the review process will identify the cost of any proposed changes to the scheme and these will be outlined in the report to Council in February 2020.

Summary of legal implications

8. The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2003 govern the establishment of the scheme necessary to determine the operation of allowances scheme for Members.

Summary of human resources implications

9. There are no human resource implications arising from this report

Summary of environmental impact

10. There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

Summary of public health implications

11. There are no public health implications arising from this report.

Summary of equality implications

12. There are no equalities and diversity implications arising from this report.

Summary of risk assessment

13. There is a risk that should the panel not be formed and the scheme of Members Allowances is not reviewed that the roles and responsibilities of councillors will not be recognised.

Background papers

None

Appendices

There are no appendices to this report.