

## RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

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meeting date: TUESDAY, 24 JANUARY 2023  
title: MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE SCHEME – APPOINTMENT OF PANEL  
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES  
principal author: HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

### 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To seek committee's approval for the constitution of an Independent Remuneration Panel to review the Members' Allowance Scheme.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Council's Ambitions – N/A
- Community Objectives - N/A
- Corporate Priorities – To be a well-managed Council. The Council's review of its members' allowances in accordance with statute enhances its reputation as a well-managed Council.
- Other considerations - N/A

### BACKGROUND

2.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 require that the Council make a scheme ("Scheme") for the payment of Members' Allowances (Regulations").

2.2 The Council's current Scheme came into effect on 19 May 2019 for a period of 4 years. The Council must therefore review and agree to make a further scheme prior to that date.

### 3 ISSUES

3.1 Regulation 19 provides that before making or amending a scheme, the Council shall have regard to the recommendations made to it by an independent remuneration panel ("Panel"). The Council must therefore agree the constitution of the Panel.

3.2 Regulation 20, provides that the panel must have at least three members none of whom:

- is also a member of an authority in respect of which it makes recommendations or is a member of a committee or sub-committee of such an authority.
- is disqualified from being or becoming a member of an authority pursuant to section 80 of the Local Government Act 1972 and section 79 and 83(11) of the Local Government Act 2000.

3.3 It is proposed that the Panel have four members and that they be:

- Sharon Senior (Executive Director - Northwest Employers Organisation)
- Michael Ranson (Former Councillor and Mayor)
- John Houldsworth (Solicitor)

3.4 Regulation 20 also provides that the Council may pay the expenses incurred by the Panel in carrying out its functions and may pay the members of the Panel such allowances or expenses as the authority may determine. Previously, the Council has agreed to pay the reasonable travel expenses of members of the Panel, and it is proposed that this be continued.

3.5 The Council will arrange for the Panel to meet and determine how they wish to gather evidence to allow them to review the Scheme. Advice upon the terms of the Regulations will be provided by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and by the Director of Resources and Chief Executive upon the current operation of the Scheme. The recommendations of the Panel will be reported to Committee for consideration and will be publicised in accordance with the Regulations. A new Scheme will be approved by Council prior to the expiry of the existing Scheme on 18 May 2023.

#### 4. RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources – The Council's budget includes the following:

Basic Allowance - £158,890

Special Responsibility - £82,000

Car Allowance - £4,690

Total - £245,580

- Technical, Environment and Legal – Legal Services have prepared this report and their comments are included within it.
- Political – No implications identified.
- Reputation – The Council's compliance with statute has a direct bearing on its reputation and proper consideration of these matters will enhance its reputation.
- Equality & Diversity – The Panel will consider all allowance which are permitted to be agreed under the Regulations and in doing so will consider where these may have an impact in terms of Equality and Diversity.

#### 5. RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

5.1 Approve the appointment of the proposed Panel as set out in paragraph 3.3 above.

5.2 Approve payment of reasonable travel expenses to members of the Panel, arising from their attendance at meetings of the Panel.

MAIR HILL  
HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

JANE PEARSON  
DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

BACKGROUND PAPERS or further information please ask for Mair Hill on extension 4418.

REF: MJH/POLICYANDFINANCE/24.01.23