

Title of Report : APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION
PANEL FOR MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

Report of : Head of Legal and Democratic Services

To : Standards Committee

Date : 5th September 2008

Item No

9:



Purpose of report : This report, subject to the outcome of discussion at agenda item 8, asks the Committee to consider the membership of the City Council's Independent Remuneration Panel for members' allowances.



Recommendation(s) : The Committee is invited to comment on the membership of the Independent Remuneration Panel



Key decision : No

Portfolio Holder : Not applicable



Scrutiny Responsibility : Not applicable

Ward(s) affected : All



Report Approved by : Jeremy Thomas (Legal)
Mark Jones (Finance)



Policy Framework : Not applicable



BACKGROUND

Local Authorities are required to appoint and maintain independent remuneration panels for members' allowances and requires local authorities to have regard to their advice. The law permits the following allowance categories to be paid:-



- basic allowances

- special responsibility allowances
- childcare and dependent carers' allowances
- travel and subsistence allowances
- co-optees' allowances
- allowance schemes for Parish Councils
- the pensionability of members' remuneration

An independent remuneration panel shall consist of 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.

On the recommendation of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services the City Council's independent remuneration panels have consisted of three members representing academia, the voluntary sector and trade/commerce.

The Panel last met in 2006 and made recommendations to Council on 26th June, which were accepted in their entirety. The membership of that Panel was:-

Ken Brown, Oxford Chamber of Commerce – whose term of office expired in July 2006

Rex Knight, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Registrar, Oxford Brookes University

Alex Jacobs, Director MANGO (Management Accounting for Non-Governmental Organisations)

Council on 26th June, 2006 resolved, amongst other things, that the independent remuneration panel would not be invited to meet again until Autumn 2008, then to review the Members' Allowances Scheme and make recommendations for the 2009/2010 Council Year.

2. **CURRENT POSITION**

The Committee has, earlier on the agenda, been asked to adopt responsibility for the Remuneration Panel and Council will be asked to agree this at its meeting on 6th October, 2008.

On the assumption that the Committee and Council agrees this recommendation the Panel is invited to comment on the composition of the Panel. The requirement to convene the Panel before the next scheduled meeting of the Committee in December necessitates this early report.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee express its views as to the appropriate membership of the Panel.

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Background papers: None

