

INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

Minutes of a meeting held at the Council Offices, Narborough

WEDNESDAY, 4 JANUARY 2023

Present:-

Luke Pulford (Chairman)

Stephen Knott

Anne Senior

Officers present:-

Sarah Pennelli	- Executive Director - S.151 Officer
Louisa Horton	- Corporate Services Group Manager & Monitoring Officer
Sandeep Tiensa	- Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer
Nicole Cramp	- Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer

Invitee:-

Cllr. Ben Taylor

173. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer invited nominations for the election of Chairman of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

DECISION

That Luke Pulford be elected Chairman of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

174. **INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL**

Members of the Panel received a briefing from the Corporate Services Group Manager and Monitoring Officer.

The Panel considered its scope of work before hearing a verbal representation from Cllr Ben Taylor.

The Chairman asked Cllr Taylor to leave the room once representations had been heard to allow the Panel to consider its recommendations.

The Panel considered the 2022/23 increases in allowances and the wording of the Scheme as the Pay Award for Local Authority Staff which is linked to the Members' Allowances Scheme was agreed on the basis of a set £1925.00 pay award for all staff rather than a percentage increase.

It was felt by the Panel that applying the £1925.00 to the Basic Allowance and each Special Responsibility Allowance would be disproportionate and would have meant an increase in the Basic Allowance of 35% and depending upon the particular role in increase of between 14% - 160% on the Special Responsibility Allowances.

Future Work:

The Panel will consider any additional amendments to the Members' Allowance Scheme including expenses and Special Responsibility Allowances and will report to the Council in due course with any recommendations arising.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

1. That the Members Basic Allowance be increased for 2022/23 by 4.04%.
2. That the Special Responsibility Allowances be increased for 2022/23 by 4.04%.
3. That the Member Allowances Scheme be amended so that annual increases reflect the national average percentage pay award of the National Joint Council Staff Pay Award.

Reasons:

1. The Panel considered applying the national average of the National Joint Council Staff Pay Award was appropriate for the 2022/23 financial year.
2. It is appropriate for the Independent Remuneration Panel to ensure that the Members' Allowances Scheme is reviewed on a regular basis and that the allowances payable to Members are appropriate.

3. This amendment will enable the Scheme to be applied where alternatives to a set percentage pay award are agreed in the pay award discussions with the National Joint Council.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 7.05 P.M.