

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

21 OCTOBER 2021

Report Title	APPOINTMENT TO THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL			
Purpose of Report	To approve the recommended appointment to the Independent Remuneration Panel to review the Members' Scheme of Allowances.			
Decision(s)	Council RESOLVES that the following be appointed to the Independent Remuneration Panel for a period of three years from October 2021 to October 2024: Ms Kim Hawkins Mr Chris Markley Mr John Morris Mr Graham Russell			
Consultation and Feedback	Candidate applications were circulated to Group Leaders			
Report Author	Hannah Emery, Corporate Policy and Governance Manager Email: Hannah.emery@stroud.gov.uk			
Options	To either confirm or refuse the appointment of a member of the Independent Remuneration Panel. The Council is required to have an Independent Remuneration Panel of at least three members.			
Background Papers	None			
Appendices	None			
Implications (further details at the end of the report)	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	No	No	No	No

1. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 1.1** Council is required, under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 and the Local Authorities (Members' allowances) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2003 to appoint an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) to make recommendations to the council on a Scheme of Members' Allowances for adoption. The Regulations recommend a panel of five members and a minimum of three panel members.
- 1.2** Since Autumn 2019, this council has shared panel members with Gloucester City Council to take advantage of a wider pool of applicants. To date, both councils have proceeded to

appoint the same panel members but the panels remain separate. Panel members receive expenses but are not remunerated.

- 1.3** In 2020 the following members were appointed to the IRP for a period of three years:
Mr Chris Markley
Mr Graham Russell and
Mrs Wynn Bartlett
- 1.4** Following the resignation of Mrs Wynn Bartlett in March 2021 due to relocating out of the area, the council is now required to make one or more appointments to reconstitute its panel.
- 1.5** The advert for panel members has remained live on the council's website in the event that either council needed to replace panel members and three valid applications were received.
- 1.6** The applicants were interviewed and assessed by the current panel members, Mr Graham Russell and Mr Chris Markley, and the Policy and Governance Managers from both Stroud and Gloucester on the 24 June 2021. The intention had been to recommend that all three applicants be appointed to the panel, however, one rescinded their application shortly after the interviews due to a change of circumstances, and it is now recommended that the two remaining applicants be appointed.
- 1.7** All of the proposed panel members have a keen interest in voluntary service and making a contribution to their community. A brief summary of each of the four proposed panel members is included below:
- Existing Member – Mr Graham Russell has an extensive local authority background as a previous Head of Democratic Services and is an experienced Chair of IRPs across the South West.
 - Existing Member – Mr Chris Markley has a military background and has worked as a military inspector/auditor of public funded allowances.
 - New Member – Ms Kim Hawkins lives in the Stroud district and has a varied employment background, having worked as a PA for many years and previously for the Chartered Institute of Marketing as a Quality Manager.
 - New Member – Mr John Morris lives in the Stroud district and has a military background and undertakes various voluntary duties across the County.
- 1.8** Gloucester City Council appointed all of the proposed panel members listed above to their IRP at their Council meeting held on the 23 September 2021.
- 1.9** If appointed, the Panel will commence a full review of this council's Members' Scheme of Allowances and present its recommendations to Council in early 2022. All panel members appointed will work together on this review.

2. IMPLICATIONS

2.1 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications resulting from the recommendations in the report as the Panel will be appointed on a voluntary basis.

Lucy Clothier, Accountancy Manager
Tel: 01453 754343 Email: lucy.clothier@stroud.gov.uk

2.2 Legal Implications

The legal implications are detailed in the body of the report.

One Legal Tel: 01684 272691 Email: legalservices@onelegal.org.uk

2.3 Equality Implications

None directly arising from this report.

2.4 Environmental Implications

None directly arising from this report.