

Urgency Committee

Meeting to be held on 28 March 2013

Electoral Division affected: None

Lancashire County Council Independent Remuneration Panel

(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

The appointment of additional members of the Independent Remuneration Panel

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to approve an increase in the size of the Panel to 6 members and the appointment of Irene Divine, Keith Leaver and Terry Whitehead, as members of the Independent Remuneration Panel for a four year term with effect from 28 March 2013.

Background and Advice

The County Council is by Regulation obliged to put in place a Remuneration Panel to make recommendations to the Authority about Allowances to be paid to members.

The Constitution and Terms of Reference of the Council's Panel are set out at Appendix 'A'. These have been derived from the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 and associated guidance.

Panels are required to consist of at least three members. However, in 2006 the County Council agreed to increase membership of its Panel from three to five in order to seek to ensure that sufficient members are available when required to conduct any necessary business. Since then Panel has comprised five members but there are now two vacancies with the existing members of the Panel being:

- Gordon Johnson DL (Chair)
- Dennis Mendoros OBE DL
- Gayle Stanley MBE DL

Notice of the vacancies inviting applications, and the role specification for members of the Panel (Appendix 'B') have been placed on the Council's website. Three applications have been received from the three former Independent Members of the former Standards Committee of the County Council:

- Irene Divine
- Keith Leaver
- Terry Whitehead

In appointing its Panel, a local authority should consider candidates' knowledge of local government and the way it works although lack of familiarity with the functions of councils should not be a bar to appointment. The three applicants have considerable knowledge and experience of the County Council as they all served on Council's Standards Committee until it was disestablished in June 2012.

Whilst the Panel's current size is 5 members, and there are currently 2 vacancies, all 3 applicants are considered to have similar skills and experience relevant to the role. It is therefore suggested appropriate to consider an increase in the size of the Panel to 6 members and to consider appointing all 3 applicants to the panel. This will increase the capacity of the Panel to ensure that sufficient members are available when required to conduct any necessary business.

The appointments if made by the Committee on behalf of the County Council would be for a four year term with effect from 28 March 2013.

The three applicants have all been appointed by the County Council as Independent persons in relation to Councillor code of conduct matters. These appointments do not disqualify the three applicants from being appointed as members of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

These are outlined in the report

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
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N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A