

Meeting of the Full Council
Meeting to be held on Thursday, 25 February 2021

Report submitted by: Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Part A

Electoral Division affected:
None;

Independent Remuneration Panel Membership

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

This report sets out the proposed appointment of a new member of the Independent Remuneration Panel, following an open recruitment process and interviews conducted by the Chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel, the Director of Corporate Services, and the Democratic and Member Services Manager.

Recommendation

Full Council is asked to approve the appointment of Ms Lisa Strapps to serve on the Independent Remuneration Panel for a four-year term with effect from 25 February 2021.

Background and Advice

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 require the county council to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel, and to have regard to the recommendations of the Panel before making or amending the Members' Allowance Scheme.

The existing membership of the Panel is as follows:

Mr Dennis Mendoros OBE DL (Chair) – appointed until 5 October 2022

Mr Keith Leaver – appointed until 27 March 2025

Ms Irene Divine – appointed until 27 March 2025

Mr Terry Whitehead – appointed until 27 March 2025

The Panel's Terms of Reference provide that Panel members are appointed for a fixed four-year period and may serve a further term of four years, subject to Full Council approval of their re-appointment.

The Panel's Terms of Reference also provide that the Panel shall consist of a minimum of three and a maximum of five members. In that regard, Full Council will note that there is currently one unfilled position on the Panel.

Following an open recruitment process in November and December 2020 and interviews held in February 2021 with a panel comprising the Chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel, the Director of Corporate Services, and the Democratic and Member Services Manager, Ms Lisa Strapps has been selected as a suitable fifth appointment to the Panel.

Ms Strapps is a financial advisor and has experience of living and working in Lancashire. Her appointment will enhance the expertise and knowledge of the Panel, so it is able to review and make recommendations on any changes to the Members' Allowance Scheme following the county council elections in 2021 and in the future.

The Full Council is therefore recommended to approve the appointment of Ms Lisa Strapps to the Independent Remuneration Panel for a four-year term with effect from 25 February 2021.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

Financial

The Independent Remuneration Panel provides impartial advice regarding the Members' Allowance Scheme. Regulations provide that local authorities may pay panel members an allowance for expenses incurred in carrying out the panel's functions. This allowance is currently £409 per annum, per member and is increased annually in line with the county council's staff pay award. No other expenses can be claimed by panel members.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

	Date	Contact/Tel
Paper		
None		
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
N/A		