

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

Meeting of the Independent Remuneration Panel held on 26 October 2016 –
12.30pm

PRESENT:

Panel Members: Chris Bell, Geoff Lambert and Dr Roy Tipping

Officers: Brian Dunleavy, Norman Eighteen and Jonathon Partridge

1. APPOINTMENT OF PANEL

Chris Bell was appointed Chairman of the Panel.

2. PANEL MEMBERSHIP

The Panel was advised that Helen Orme had recently resigned and that the current terms of membership were as follows:

Name of Member	Period of Appointment
Mr G Lambert	Expires 31 March 2017
Mr C Bell	Expires 31 March 2018
Dr Roy Tipping	Expires 31 March 2019
Vacancy	

Mr Lambert and Mr Bell, both long serving members, expressed a wish to extend their membership period.

The Panel also considered it would be beneficial to increase Panel membership from four to five as it believes that an additional member would assist the Panel with succession planning and continuity and combat instances where Panel members are unavailable. The Panel noted that this request complies with the Statutory Guidance issued in relation to the 2003 Regulations on Members' Allowances.

The Panel RECOMMENDED that

- Mr Geoff Lambert and Mr Chris Bell be re-appointed to the Panel for the periods to 31 March 2021 and 31 March 2022 respectively;
- the term of office for the Panel vacancy be until 31 March 2020;
- the size of the Panel membership be increased from four to five (with three remaining the quorum), the period of the new appointment being until 31 March 2021

3. APPOINTMENT PROCESS FOR FILLING PANEL VACANCIES

The Panel was advised that under current arrangements approved by Council on 13 September 2012, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services has delegated authority on specific matters relating to filling vacancies on the Panel. As a result of changes to the Council's Management structure since then, it is now appropriate for this delegated authority to pass to the Head of Governance.

The Panel RECOMMENDED that the delegated authority relating to the appointment process to fill vacancies on the Panel be transferred from the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to the Head of Governance.

4. REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

Officers advised of the need for a review of the Scheme and the Panel discussed the current level of allowances which were last reviewed in November 2011. The Panel also took into account the views of the Leader of the Council who had been invited to input into the meeting. Although the Panel was satisfied with the current level of allowances it agreed that it would examine whether allowances should be subject to some form of indexation.

The Panel RECOMMENDED that the current Scheme of Members' Allowances for Central Bedfordshire be ratified and adopted for the financial years up to and including 2018/19.

5. NEXT MEETING

The Panel agreed to hold its next meeting at Chicksands on Monday 20 February 2017 at 9.30am to consider issues relating to the possible indexation of allowances.

The meeting ended at 1.40pm