

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL
28TH JULY 2010

Appointment of a Member - Joint Independent Remuneration Panel for Members' Expenses

OPEN	
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:	-
CORPORATE PLAN AIM:	A Well-Run and Responsive Council
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor A Hingley
DIRECTOR:	Director of Legal and Corporate Services
CONTACT OFFICER:	Diana Glendenning Principal Committee Officer Ext. 2763 Email: diana.glendenning@wyrfeorestdc.gov.uk
APPENDICES:	None

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To appoint a Member onto the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel for Members' Expenses.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The Council is asked to DECIDE:

That one Councillor be appointed onto the Joint Independent Remuneration Committee for Members' expenses in order to review and agree the Terms of Reference of the Panel, the operating arrangements and other relevant details.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 On 24th February 2010 the Council agreed to join a multi-authority Independent Remuneration Panel for Members' Expenses for Worcestershire Councils.
- 3.2 On 29th June 2010 it was agreed that the current Independent Remuneration Panel for Malvern Hills District, Worcester City and Wychavon Councils be appointed as the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel for Bromsgrove, Malvern Hills District, Redditch Borough Council, Worcester City Council, Wychavon District Council and Wyre Forest District Council.

4. KEY ISSUES

4.1 The advantages of sharing a Panel are:

- Efficiencies in servicing and recruitment to one Panel rather than duplicating work across each authority.
- Sharing costs associated with the Panel's work.

- One Panel can develop expertise in the way Local Government works across Worcestershire and apply a consistent approach across all Councils.

4.2 The Panel would not produce one single scheme applicable to all participating authorities but would review and report to each authority separately taking into account their own circumstances and operating arrangements.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The costs of sharing a panel are estimated to be less than £1,000 per authority (excluding advertising costs which it is considered will remain the responsibility of each authority).

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The established Joint Independent Remuneration Panel meets relevant legislative requirements.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

7.1 An equality impact assessment has been undertaken and it is considered that there are no discernable impacts on the six equality strands.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

8.1. The Panel will have a tight timescale in order to report on all Councils this year and if there is any delay there is a risk that it may not complete its work on time.

9. CONCLUSION

9.1 The establishment of a Joint Independent Remuneration Panel is a positive step for the Council and would not only accrue savings through sharing costs but would also apply a consistent approach to remuneration for all Councils in Worcestershire.

10. CONSULTEES

10.1 Corporate Management Team

10.2 Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Legal and Corporate Services

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 Report to Council – Independent Remuneration Panel – 24th February 2010

11.2 Local Authorities Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (Section 5)

11.3 Report of the Independent Remuneration panel, September 2004