

Report to:	Council
Date of Meeting	28 June 2017

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to an allowance for an independent member of the Audit Committee.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, as set out at Appendix 6(a).
- 2.2 That subject to the decision of Council, the Director of Governance and Partnerships be authorised to update the Members' Allowances Scheme accordingly (if necessary).
- 2.3 That a recruitment process be initiated, with an interview panel consisting of the Chairman of the Audit Committee (to be Chairman of the Panel), an Executive member, the Chief Internal Auditor and the Monitoring Officer and a report be brought back to September's Council meeting with a recommendation for a preferred appointment.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 At the Annual Council meeting, the Independent Remuneration panel was asked to consider an appropriate remuneration for the newly created position of independent co-opted member of the Audit Committee. The Council has a duty to consider the recommendations of the Panel but may make its own decisions.

4.0 Background Information

- 4.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel was formed by the Council in 2001 and has a duty to provide the Council with recommendations on its scheme (or parts of its scheme) of members' allowances and amounts to be paid.
- 4.2 The Panel's terms of reference are to consider and make recommendations to the Council on the following:

basic allowance – the amount to be paid to all members of the Council.

special responsibility allowance – the roles for which this allowance should be paid and the levels of the allowance in each case.

travel and subsistence allowance – the duties for which this allowance should be paid and the amount.

co-optees allowance – whether this allowance should be paid and at what level.

childcare and dependent carer's allowance – whether this allowance should be paid, at what level and how it should be calculated.

backdating allowances – whether any allowance should be backdated to the beginning of the financial year in the event of the scheme being amended.

annual adjustment of allowances – whether annual adjustments may be made by reference to an index, and, if so, how long such a measure should run.

- 4.3 The Panel met on 31 May 2017 and attached at Appendix 6(a) is the report of the Panel, including its recommendations. Should Council agree an allowance then it is envisaged that a recruitment process will take place over the recess period with a recommendation on a preferred candidate to the September Council meeting.

List of Appendices:

Appendix 6(a) – Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

5.0 Legal considerations:

- 5.1 The Local Government Act 2000 and subsequent regulations set out the process to establish and maintain a Members Allowances scheme. The Independent Remuneration Panel appointed under that legislation has a duty to provide the Council with recommendations on its scheme of members' allowances and amounts to be paid. The current Members Allowances Scheme is part of the Council's Constitution at this link. <https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Your-Council/The-Council/Council-constitution-and-plans/Council-constitution.aspx>

6.0 Equalities Considerations

- 6.1 One of the roles of the Independent Remuneration Panel under the Local Government Act 2000 and associated legislation is to recommend what it considers fair and appropriate allowances in relation to levels paid to members working in comparable authorities.

7.0 Financial considerations:

- 7.1 If the proposal of the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to a payment of £700 per annum for an independent co-opted member is agreed then this can be met from the Members Allowances' budget.