

## MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

<b>From: Interim Assistant Director -Law and Governance</b>	<b>Report Number: C/68/16</b>
<b>To: Council</b>	<b>Date of meeting: 22 September 2016</b>

### APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

#### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider a proposal to appoint a new Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) for Mid Suffolk District Council.

#### 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the following persons be appointed to the Councils Independent Remuneration Panel:

- Frances Aspinall
- Sandra Cox
- Karen Forster
- Ivor Holden
- Pamela Linsey

#### 3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 It is proposed that panel members are paid a fee for each panel meeting at a rate of £100 per member per meeting and reimbursed any expenses reasonably incurred in the performance of their duties. This level of fee and expenses is consistent with the approach taken by other local councils.

#### 4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 Under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 ("the Regulations"), the Council is required to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel to make recommendations to it about the allowances to be paid to Members. It is important that the Council appoints an Independent Remuneration Panel, and has regard to the views of the Panel before any decisions are made in respect of changes to the scheme of allowances for members.

#### 5. Risk Management

- 5.1 Key risks are set out below:

Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measures
The Council would not be able to review the Scheme of allowances for councillors	Low	Medium	Working with other local councils to share IRP panel members with subsequent appointment

## 6. Consultations

6.1 None

## 7. Equality Analysis

7.1 The decision recommended in this report does not give rise to any equality or diversity implications.

## 8. Shared Service / Partnership Implications

8.1 The opportunity to appoint persons who are also appointed in the same capacity by another council could provide a more informed and rounded view in discharging their duty, as the panel members will be able to bring the experience and perspective they have gained advising another authority.

## 9. Links to Joint Strategic Plan

9.1 This decision underpins the Enabling and Efficient Organisation theme: Strengthened and clear governance to enable delivery.

## 10. Key Information

10.1 The Council is required to establish a Panel, known as the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP), to make recommendations on the making and amendment of the Members Allowances Scheme.

10.2 It is proposed that a Panel of 5 members be appointed. This provides the council with a pool of panel members to draw on for individual reviews. Panel members should be experienced in dealing with remuneration issues and at least some members should be knowledgeable of local government affairs and the public sector.

10.3 Councillors (on any principal area authority) and any person disqualified from being a Councillor cannot be Panel members. Employees of this Council and Co-opted members are also not permitted to sit on the Panel.

10.4 The current panel appointed from the Suffolk list of Independent members have now all stepped down, necessitating the appointment of a replacement panel. Suffolk Coastal & Waveney District Council's recently carried out a recruitment exercise for an Independent Remuneration Panel. Details of the recruitment process are included in the additional information section of this report (Suffolk Coastal District Council meeting 25/09/2014).

10.5 This panel is now experienced having carried out a number of reviews; members of the panel have also worked for other partner councils in Suffolk providing an IRP

function. Officers have contacted members of the panel and have established that they are prepared to assist the council and it is therefore proposed that they are appointed.

## **11. Background Documents**

- 11.1 Details of the IRP recruitment process from the Suffolk Coastal District Council meeting on 25 September 2014, Report CL 21/15.
- 11.2 <http://apps.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/committeeminutes/showagenda.asp?id=20219>

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