

**ITEM NO. 13**

**REPORT TO THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 28 JULY 2014**

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**Meeting:** Council  
**Date:** 28 July 2014  
**Subject:** Welland Remuneration Panel – Members Allowances - Update  
**Report of:** Verina Wenham – Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer  
**Portfolio Holder:** N/A  
**Status:** implementation

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1 Purpose Report

- 1.1 To update members on the current position following the recommendations adopted by the Council at its meeting on 21 February 2013.
- 1.2 To consider the constitution of the Welland Remuneration Panel following the resignation of one of its members and whether there should be a recruitment process for an additional panel member.
- 1.3 That members consider the inclusion of parish councillor remuneration as part of the terms of reference of the Welland Remuneration Panel and inclusion in its future work programme.

2 Recommendations:

**Those Members consider:**

- 2.1 **Whether to recruit a new independent member to the Welland Remuneration Panel following the resignation of one of the existing members, subject to the agreement of the other authorities who utilise the panel;**
- 2.2 **The inclusion of consideration of parish councillor remuneration as part of the Panel's future work plan; and**
- 2.3 **To consider how to progress the outstanding recommendations from Council of 21 February 2013.**

3 Summary of Reasons for the Recommendations

- 3.1 The Welland Members Remuneration Panel undertook a review of members' allowances during late 2012 and the subsequent report of the Panel was

considered by the Council at its meeting on 21 February 2103. The relevant extract of the Minutes of 21 February 2013 are attached as Appendix A

- 3.2 The recommendations from the Panel (which were approved by the Council) relating to the roles of the position of Chairman of Scrutiny Task and Finish Groups and the role of Champions be revisited in October 2013 and the Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission and the Chairman of the Scrutiny Panels be confirmed on an interim basis but be revisited at the same time.
- 3.3 Whilst further meetings of the Panel were arranged for early January 2013 as a fundamental review of the constitution was commissioned in February 2014 it was considered appropriate to postpone those deliberations. However, as a significant amount of time has elapsed since the report was considered it is appropriate that the matter is referred back to Council for review.
- 3.3 The Council has received a formal request from one of its parish councils for the independent remuneration panel to consider the payment of allowances to its councillors. The panel is the appropriate body to carry out this

#### 4 Impact on Communities

- 4.1 None as far as this report is concerned.

#### 5 Key Facts

- 5.1 In accordance with regulations, the Council can only determine its Scheme of Members Allowances after it has given due regard and consideration to the recommendations from an independent panel.
- 5.2 The Welland Independent Remuneration Panel met on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2012 to consider the current allowance scheme. The Panel gave all members the opportunity to provide verbal representations to it at the meeting and also make written representations that the panel could consider.
- 5.3 Following consideration of those representations the panel made the recommendations to the Council that were considered on 21 February 2013.
- 5.4 The Panel were made aware of recent changes to the scrutiny function that was introduced in 2012. The Panel concluded that it was premature to conclude what the full impact of these changes would be and have recommended that the roles are revisited later in 2013. This is the same position with regards to the role of Champions that has also been recently introduced. As set out at paragraph 3.3 above the review of the constitution also impacted upon the situation.
- 5.5 The Chairman of the Panel has requested that a further report be submitted to Council as there is an outstanding piece of work for the Panel to complete.

5.6 In addition one of the members of the Panel has tendered his resignation. This reduces the number on the panel to four (4). The panel is required to have a minimum of three (3) members to be quorate. It is suggested by the Chairman that to ensure that the Panel is able to operate effectively and to deal with any issues around conflict or lack of availability that the optimum number would be five (5) members.

5.7 The Council has been approached by a parish council within the district to request that its independent remuneration panel include within its workplan the payment of allowances for the members of the parish council. Under the 2003 regulations the district remuneration panel is the appropriate body to consider this.

## 6 Legal Issues

6.1 As set out in the body of this report. The Council can determine the level or rate of allowances that it wishes, giving due regard to the recommendations of the Panel and taking into account the affordability of any such consideration, which the Panel is not required to do.

## 7 Resource Issues

7.1 The recommendations adopted by the Council in February 2013 did not increase the basic allowances payable to members. However there could be an impact on resources subject to the outcome of any future review of the role of champions and the scrutiny function.

## 8 Equality Implications

8.1 None as far as this report is concerned.

## 9 Impact on the Organisation

9.1 None as far as this report is concerned.

## 10 Community Safety Implications

10.1 None as far as this report is concerned.

## 11. Carbon Management Implications

11.1 None as far as this report is concerned.

## 12. Risk Management Implications

12.1 None as far as this report is concerned

13 Consultation

13.1 The Panel contacted all members for representations around the current allowance scheme and offered the opportunity to all members to address the panel at its meeting on 23 November 2012. In addition to members the Chief Executive was requested to attend the Panel meeting to address the Panel.

14 Options Considered

14.1 Recommendation 2.1 – The Panel requires a minimum number of three to be quorate. The current panel has five members to provide flexibility. If recruitment did not take place the panel would remain quorate with four members.

Recommendation 2.2 – this falls within the remit of the panel.

Recommendation 2.3 – The Council need to consider how it will progress the outstanding recommendations from Council on 21 February 2013.

15 Background Papers

15.1 Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel which met on 23 November 2012

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**Previous report(s): 23 February 2009, 21 February 2013**

**Information Issued Under Sensitive Issue Procedure: Y/N**

**Ward Members Notified: Y/N**

**Appendices:**

**A. Extract of Minute 493 dated 21 February 2013.**

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