

## BOROUGH OF KETTERING

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<b>Report Originator</b>	Sue Lyons Head of Democratic and Legal Services		
<b>Wards Affected</b>	All	19 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	
<b>Title</b>	<b>INDEPENDENT REVIEW PANEL - MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES</b>		

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider the process for the review of the Scheme of Members' Allowances, and particularly to endorse the nomination of independent and impartial members to the Independent Review Panel.

### 2. INFORMATION

2.1 Allowances for elected members have to be determined by the Council following consideration of recommendations that are made by Independent Remuneration Panels. These Panels operate within a framework that is set out in legislation. Under the provisions of this legislation, local authorities are required to make a Scheme of Allowances and must also establish and maintain an independent panel to make the recommendations.

2.2 The Council's Independent Review Panel for Members' Allowances last met in 2012. A new scheme of members' allowances was subsequently adopted by Council on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2012. The Council's Independent Review Panel currently comprises three members:-

- Mr Steve Leach (Emeritus Professor of Local Government at De Montfort University, Leicester) – Chair of the Panel
- A representative of the local voluntary sector (currently Mrs Sue Watts of Age Concern)
- A representative of the local business community (currently vacant)

2.3 It is proposed that the Panel continue to be chaired by Professor Leach of the Department of Public Policy at De Montfort University. Professor Leach has chaired the last four panels in Kettering and brings with him a vast amount of experience in this field. It is proposed that the other two seats on the panel continue to be occupied by a representative of the voluntary sector and a representative of the business community. Professor Leach and Mrs Watts have confirmed they are willing to continue their membership of the Panel.

2.4 It is proposed to seek suitable nominations for the vacancy for a representative from the local business community by contacting members of the business

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associations in Kettering, Burton Latimer, Rothwell and Desborough and by advertising the vacancy on the Council's website.

- 2.4 A Briefing Pack will be prepared for consideration by the Council's Standards Advisory Committee prior to submission to the Independent Review Panel. The pack will also be made available to members of the public via the Council's website.
- 2.7 Members, officers and other interested parties will have the opportunity to meet with the Panel to put forward their views. This will take the form of one-to-one appointments with the Panel prior to it meeting to consider its recommendations to the Council. Written representations will also be accepted by the Panel.
- 2.8 The report of the Independent Review Panel will be considered by the Research and Development Committee and the Executive prior to submission to full Council.

### **3. CONSULTATION AND TIMETABLE FOR THE REVIEW**

- 3.1 Following approval of the Briefing Pack by the Standards Committee, the following timetable has been drawn up for the review:-

Standards Advisory Committee	9 <sup>th</sup> October 2017
Independent Review Panel to consider any representations and meet	October/early November 2017
Research and Development Committee	28 <sup>th</sup> November 2017
Executive Committee	6 <sup>th</sup> December 2017
Council	13 <sup>th</sup> December 2017

### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (i) the Council endorse the process for the review of the Scheme of Members' Allowances and the appointment of Professor Steve Leach as the Chair of the Independent Review Panel;
- (ii) authority be delegated to the Council's Managing Director to appoint a representative of the business sector to the Independent Review Panel; and
- (ii) the Briefing Pack be approved by the Standards Committee prior to publication on the Council's website and commencement of the review.