

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	County Council
Date of Decision:	16 September 2010
Decision Title:	Independent Remuneration Panel – appointment of independent members and a Chairman of the Panel
Reference No:	1996
Report From:	Chief Executive

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The County Council is required by virtue of the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000 (“the 2000 Act”), and the Local Authorities (Members’ Allowances) (England) (Regulations) 2003 (“the Members’ Allowances Regulations”) made thereunder to appoint an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) to make recommendations to the County Council on allowances paid to Members. It is a legal requirement under the Members Allowances Regulations that an IRP must comprise of at least three members, independent of the County Council. Appointment of the IRP is a County Council function.
- 1.2 One of the current Members of the IRP (Mrs Barbara North) has resigned from the IRP and it is therefore necessary to replace Mrs North on the IRP. Mrs North was also Chairman of the IRP, and it is thus also necessary to consider a replacement Chairman.
- 1.3 At its meeting on 19 November 2009, the County Council delegated authority to Standards Committee to assist in the recruitment of Members of the IRP, as the tenure of the previous Members of the IRP was coming to an end in February 2010.
- 1.4 At its meeting on 30 November 2009, Standards Committee appointed a Sub-Committee of three members of Standards Committee comprising Councillors Rice, Gibson and Dash, to assist in the recruitment of Members to the IRP. This Sub-Committee of Standards Committee met on 22 June 2010 to interview short-listed applicants to the IRP, following the placing of

advertisements in local newspapers inviting interested people with relevant background to come forward.

- 1.5 The current Members of the IRP were appointed for a four year period from February 2010. It is recommended that the new appointments should be made for a similar four year period until February 2014.
- 1.6 Government Guidance advises that when appointing an IRP, a local authority may wish to include provisions in the terms and conditions of the appointment of removal of a discredited member. It is therefore considered desirable in the interests of good governance to make appointment of Members of the IRP subject to continued suitability and ability to apply the skills and competencies required for the role.

2. Independent Remuneration (IRP) Panel

- 2.1. After full and detailed consideration, the Sub-Committee of Standards Committee considered that two further members should be appointed to the IRP, to ensure that there was always a quorum, and to reduce the necessity to interview further should any member of the IRP decide to step down in the future. The Sub-Committee of Standards Committee unanimously recommended appointment of the following as members of the IRP.

2.1.1 Mrs Julia Abbott

Mrs Abbott is a Senior University Administrator with extensive board and committee experience. Mrs Abbott also has experience as an internal quality auditor and of complex HR issues.

2.1.2 Mr Richard Kinch

Mr Kinch is a retired Facilities Consultant with extensive management experience at a senior level. Mr Kinch has experience of work both in industry and in the public sector, and of service delivery in a member led public authority.

- 2.2 The Sub-Committee of Standards Committee also considered that Mr David Heck, an existing Member of the IRP should be appointed as Chairman of the IRP. Mr Heck is a retired Managing Director of a number of privately owned companies, and has operated his own management consulting business. Mr Heck also has hands on experience of a number of community projects, both in the UK and overseas.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1. That the appointment of Members of the IRP, as detailed in this report, be approved for the period until February 2014, subject to satisfactory continuation of suitability and ability to apply the skills and competencies for the role.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Corporate Strategy

This proposal does not link to the Corporate Strategy but, nevertheless, requires a decision to comply with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Standing Order 34(b) of the County Council's Constitution.

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None