

FULL COUNCIL

15 OCTOBER 2014

REPORT OF HEAD OF COMMUNICATIONS

WELLAND PARTNERSHIP INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the constitution of the Welland Partnership Independent Remuneration Panel following the resignation of one of its members and whether there should be a recruitment process for an additional panel member.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **To consider 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 Panel be able to continue its work for Melton Borough Council pending the recruitment process so long as the Panel was quorate.**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 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 with flexibility to deal with any issues around conflict or lack of availability that the optimum number would be five (5) members.
- 3.2 If recruitment did not take place the panel would remain quorate with four members.
- 3.3 Other members of the Welland Partnership were to be consulted on the membership of the Panel and a similar report had been considered by Harborough District Council at its Full Council Meeting on 28 July 2014 with the following resolution :-

‘a new independent member be recruited 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);’

- 3.4 The Panel currently has one outstanding piece of work for Melton which relates to Parish Representatives involved in Parish Councillor complaints on the Governance Committee. To enable this work to continue in the short-term, it was proposed that so long as the Panel was quorate, this work not be delayed by any recruitment process.

4.0 POLICY & CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Members are part of the Council's Corporate and Democratic Core. The ability to attract and retain interested and hard working Members is essential and to do this a fair, structured and transparent process to set remuneration arrangements is needed.

5.0 FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There will be financial and resource implications to deal with a recruitment process which will be shared across the partner authorities and from Melton's perspective, these will be met from existing resources.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

6.1 Under the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, the Council is required to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel. The purpose of the Panel is to review the existing Scheme of Allowances, including the Special Responsibility Allowances, paid to Members and to make recommendations to the Council on the appropriate level of payments to be made in the future.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

7.1 There are no direct links to community safety as a result of this report other than the role that Members take in relation to this area of the Council's work.

8.0 EQUALITIES

8.1 An equalities impact assessment has been undertaken on the work of the panel.

9.0 RISKS

9.1 Should the panel not be quorate its work for any of the Welland authorities involved in the Partnership could be delayed.

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 There are no direct links to climate change as a result of this report

11.0 CONSULTATION

11.1 There has been consultation with Harborough District Council as a shared user of the Welland Partnership Independent Remuneration Panel.

12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

12.1 All wards are indirectly affected.

Contact Officer: Sarah Evans, Senior Democracy Officer
Date: September 2014
Appendices: None
Background Papers: Supporting papers held by Remuneration Panel

