

Recommendations to the Council

19 May 2022

Independent Remuneration Panel - Appointment

1. The County Council is required to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) of between three and five members to provide advice and recommendations to the Council on its Members' Allowances Scheme. The Panel meets each year to consider the recommendations to be made to the Council in respect of the level and nature of the forthcoming year's allowances.
2. At the County Council meeting held on 22 July 2021, it was agreed "That, if required, the Audit and Standards Committee be requested to carry out a recruitment exercise for IRP members in 2022". As of 1 April 2022 there are two members on the panel and therefore a recruitment exercise was necessary.
3. This process has recently been completed and the Special Panel of the Audit and Standards Committee recommend to the Council that Ms Christina Robotham, Mr Eddie Barnett and Mr Adrian Bowen be appointed to the Independent Remuneration Panel for a period of four years ending 31 March 2026.

Appointment of Standards Independent Persons (IPs) under Localism Act 2011

4. Full Council, at its meeting on 10 February 2022, agreed to instigate the recruitment process for the appointment of a Standards Independent Person(s) as required under the Localism Act 2011 and as part of the County Councils Procedures for dealing with complaints against elected members. At that time I reported that the original pool of four IPs had unfortunately reduced to two.
5. The recruitment process involves the same Special Panel of the Audit and Standards Committee as referred to at paragraph 3 above.
6. Of four expressions of interest received, two were considered suitable for interview. One of those applicants is Mr Eddie Barnett who has a background in Policing and conflict resolution. Mr Barnett had already been interviewed by the Panel therefore I sought Panel members views on his appointment as a Standards IP without a further formal interview and they have given the proposal their unanimous support.
7. The second suitable applicant is Mrs Sue Charles who has a background in Pharmacy/NHS. She is a long time serving, much respected voluntary member of the County Councils School Admission Appeal Panels. In view of the high regard in which Mrs Charles is held I also consulted the Special Panel members on the proposal to appoint her as a Standards IP without interview. Again, Panel members gave their unanimous support.

8. The Standards IP appointments are for a four year period. The appointment of Mr Barnett and Mrs Charles would give the County Council a strong pool of four Standards IPs with contrasting backgrounds and skills (Education, HR, Policing and NHS/Public Sector)

9. **Recommend** – That:

(a) Council approve the recommendation of the Special Panel of the Audit and Standards Committee to appoint Ms Christina Robotham, Mr Eddie Barnett and Mr Adrian Bowen to the Independent Remuneration Panel for a period of four years ending 31 March 2026.

(b) the Council express their thanks to retiring member, Mrs Annie Barrett, for her contribution on the Panel since 2018.

(c) the Audit and Standards Committee be requested to carry out a recruitment exercise for IRP members in 2023.

(d) Council approve the recommendation of the members of the Special Panel of the Audit and Standards Committee to appoint Mr Eddie Barnett and Mrs Sue Charles as Standards Independent Persons for a period of four years to May 2026.