

## **Recommendations to the Council**

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### **1. Members' Allowances Scheme - Independent Remuneration Panel Report**

The County Council is required to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel to provide advice and recommendations to the Council on its Members' Allowances Scheme. Any decision on the nature and level of allowances are a matter for the full Council, but the Council must have regard to any recommendations submitted by the Independent Remuneration Panel before establishing or amending the 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.

The Independent Remuneration Panel's report of July 2021 noting and supporting the changes to the Special Responsibility Allowances following the 2021 County Council Elections and Annual Council Meeting is attached.

In the report, the Panel have also proposed to fully review the Members' Allowance Scheme, the Basic Allowance and the expenses paid to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the County Council this year and report their findings back to the County Council in due course.

**Recommend** – That (a) the Independent Remuneration Panel July 2021 report be received.

(b) the Council accept the Panel's proposal to fully review the Members' Allowance Scheme, the Basic Allowance and the expenses paid to the Chairman and Vice – Chairman of the County Council this year and report their findings back to the County Council in due course.

### **2. Independent Remuneration Panel – Appointment**

The County Council is required to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel to provide advice and recommendations to the Council on its Members' Allowances Scheme. Any decision on the nature and level of allowances are a matter for the full Council, but the Council must have regard to any recommendations submitted by the Independent Remuneration Panel before establishing or amending the 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.

The Independent Remuneration Panel currently has four Members who were appointed by the County Council. The minimum number of people permitted to sit on the Independent Remuneration Panel is three and a maximum of five. Members of the Panel usually serve a term of four years, but this may be extended where it is expedient to do so.

Christina Robotham was first appointed as an Independent Remuneration Panel member in October 2017. As the other Members of the Panel are still relatively new, it is recommended that the County Council agree that Christina Robotham's term of office be extended for a further period of 5 months in order to retain her expertise as Chairman for the duration of the financial year.

**Recommend** – (a) That the period of office for Christina Robotham as a member of the Independent Remuneration Panel be extended for a further period of 5 months to 31 March 2022.

(b) That, if required, the Audit and Standards Committee be requested to carry out a recruitment exercise for IRP members in 2022.