

**To the Chair and Members of the
COUNCIL**

INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL APPOINTMENTS

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval of the appointment of 2 new members to the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP). It also asks Council to grant delegated authority to the Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services to approve 1 further appointment to the Panel in order to increase the pool of IRP members to a total of 5 individuals.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. No.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. Council is recommended to:-
 - (i) approve the appointment of Stuart Highfield and Sue Williams as members of the IRP;
 - (ii) note the continuation of Mr Keith Marriott and Mr Ranjan Talukder as IRP members;
 - (iii) give delegated authority to the Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services to approve 1 further appointment to the Panel in order to increase the pool of IRP members to a total of 5 individuals; to ensure the required quorum can be maintained throughout the review.
 - (iv) approve the payment of £150 to the Chair of the Remuneration Panel for drafting and presenting the Remuneration Panel's report and recommendations to Council on levels of Members' allowances.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

4. Citizens are made aware that the levels of allowances paid to Elected Members are recommended by a Panel, Independent of the Council. Should the Council not support the recommendations of the Independent Panel, it is required to publically specify the reasons why.

BACKGROUND

5. The Council has a duty to have an Independent Remuneration Panel comprising a minimum of 3 members. The purpose of the Panel is to make

recommendations as to the levels of allowances and expenses for members and co-optees of Doncaster Council. The Panel also acts as the parish remuneration panel for all parish and town councils within the Borough. The next full review of the Council's Members Allowances Scheme is due to commence shortly in order that a new scheme can be agreed to take effect from the 1st April, 2018.

Following the resignations of Edward Laud, Derek Morris and Rosemary Young, the Panel now has only 2 members, Mr Keith Marriott (Panel Chair) and Mr Ranjan Talukder and is therefore inquorate.

As a result of a recent recruitment exercise, applications to serve on the Panel have been received from Stuart Highfield and Sue Williams. Profiles of both applicants are attached at **Appendix A** of this report for Members' information.

Interviews with the applicants have been conducted by the Governance and Members Services Manager who is of the opinion that both individuals possess the skills and attributes required to join the IRP. Satisfactory references for both applicants have been received. It is therefore recommended that Council approves the appointment of the above named individuals.

In order to provide maximum flexibility and to ensure that the required quorum of 3 members can be maintained at all times, it would be of benefit to recruit a total of 5 individuals in order to maintain an adequate pool of panel members. Members are requested, therefore, to give delegated authority to the Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services to appoint 1 additional panel member to fill the outstanding vacancy.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6. (A) Support the recommendations set out at paragraph 3 of this report. (RECOMMENDED OPTION)
- (B) To appoint the statutory minimum of 3 members only reduces flexibility and in the absence of all 3 members being available it would not be possible to undertake reviews of the Member Allowance Scheme.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

7. Legislation requires a minimum of 3 members for each review. Extending the Panel membership to 5 members increases flexibility to ensure that all Panel meetings are quorate.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY PRIORITIES

8.

	Outcomes	Implications
	Working with our partners we will provide strong leadership and governance.	The proposals in this report comply with statutory requirements for considering revisions to the

		scheme of member allowances.
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RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

9. There are no specific risks associated with this report. Legislation requires a minimum of 3 members to sit on the Panel.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10. Under the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, the Council is required to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel comprising a minimum of 3 individuals. 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. The Panel also acts as the parish remuneration panel for all parish and town councils within the borough, making recommendations as to the level of basic and chairman's allowances and expenses for parish and town councillors.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11. Panel members will receive out of pocket expenses and the Chair of the Panel will receive an additional payment of £150. These costs will be met from existing budgets.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

12. There are no specific equality implications associated with this report.

CONSULTATION

13. There has been no external consultation on the content of this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

14. Application forms (exempt) - contain information as described in Paragraph 1 (information in relation to an individual) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 act, as amended.

REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS

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Mr Stuart Highfield

Stuart Highfield has lived in and around Doncaster since 1967 and has served the local community in a number of different fields over the years.

Stuart taught in Primary Education for 21 years and retired from teaching as a Deputy Head. Stuart currently serves as a magistrate until his retirement in 2018, he is the second longest serving magistrate in the Borough since 1983. Stuart has also acted as a JP appraiser.

Stuart has also held a number of positions in relation to football, namely:-

- Chair on Sheffield and Hallamshire County Disciplinary Committee and also a Council Member for County FA
- Referee Assessor;
- Director of Doncaster Rovers FC since 1998;
- Chair of Doncaster Club Foundation 2010 – 2017

Stuart currently serves as a Panel Chair for Independent Education Admission Appeals. He is also a Retired Director and Consultant of a residential letting agency in Doncaster, having served as a National Director for the Association of Residential Letting Agents.

Mrs Sue Williams

Sue Williams is a resident of the borough. She has had a career in the Civil Service within the Unemployment Benefit Office with financial and staff management responsibilities.

She has served as a School Governor for 35 years, at ten schools from nursery to 6th form, and has been a Chair of a Governing Body for 33 years. During this time she was also a foster carer.

Sue served as a Magistrate on the Doncaster bench from December 2002 until October 2016 during this time she held the following positions:-

- Chairman of Family Court Sessions;
- Chairman in Adult Court; and
- Deputy Chairman of Doncaster Magistracy 2013/14

As a former member of the South Yorkshire Advisory Committee for 8 years, she has also been involved in investigating complaints about a judicial office-holder's personal conduct.

Sue has also been a member of the Independent Education Admission Appeals Panel for over 15 years.