

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 25 MARCH 2009

REPORT BY HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

9. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE INDEPENDENT  
REMUNERATION PANEL

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All

RECOMMENDATION - that (A) the persons named below be appointed to the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel:

(B) the term of office of the appointments detailed in (A) above and the existing members (Mr B Norman and Mr J Wilson) be until the end of the 2010/11 Civic Year.

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1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 Council is invited to appoint people to its Independent Remuneration Panel.

2.0 Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/Objectives

2.1 The subject matter of this report contributes to the following Council Priorities:

**Fit for purpose, services fit for you**

*Deliver customer focused services by maintaining and developing a well managed and publicly accountable organisation.*

3.0 Background

3.1 East Herts Council previously established an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) comprising four members.

3.2 The purpose of the IRP is to make recommendations to the Council about allowances paid to Councillors.

3.3 The IRP is about to commence a review of the Authority's Members' Allowances Scheme.

3.4 There are currently two vacancies on the IRP. Council is therefore invited to appoint people to these vacancies.

#### 4.0 Report

4.1 An advertisement was placed in local newspapers inviting applications to be submitted to fill the vacant seats on the IRP.

4.2 At the time of writing this report, the deadline for applications (13 March) 2009 has not expired.

4.3 The Monitoring Officer and Head of Democratic and Legal Support Services will be interviewing applicants during the week preceding this meeting.

4.4 Applicants will be assessed using the criteria detailed in guidance issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government as follows:

- members of the IRP cannot be members (or co-opted members) of any local authority in respect of which it makes recommendations;
- anyone disqualified from being elected as a member of a local authority is also disqualified from being a member of the IRP;
- the membership of the IRP should be truly independent and well qualified to discharge its functions and be representative of the diversity of the District's communities;
- to ensure public credibility in their independence, the extent to which panel members are recognisable members of the local community – avoiding political appointments and appointments made through friendship or any other personal association with Members of the Council;
- the extent of any applicant's connections to a political party and whether these are such as to risk the effective discharge of the IRP's functions, and
- an applicant's knowledge of local government and the way it works – although lack of familiarity with the Council's functions should not be a bar to appointment.

4.5 The Panel will elect its Chairman at its next meeting. It is, however, recommended that the term of office of the new appointments and the existing Panel members expires at the end of the 2010/11 Civic Year.

#### 5.0 Consultation

5.1 The vacant seats on the IRP were advertised in the issues of the Bishop's Stortford Observer and Herts Mercury published on 5 and 6 March 2009 respectively.

#### 6.0 Legal Implications

6.1 The appointment of Panel Members accords with the provisions of relevant legislation.

#### 7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 There are no financial implications.

#### 8.0 Human Resource Implications

8.1 There are no Human Resource implications.

#### 9.0 Risk Management Implications

9.1 There are no risk management implications.

### Background Papers

Department for Communities and Local Government: Guidance on Regulation for Local Authority Allowances

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