

CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

15 FEBRUARY 2008

APPOINTMENTS TO THE INDEPENDENT PANEL ON MEMBERS' REMUNERATION

RICHARD LONG: DIRECTOR OF LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1 To seek Council confirmation of the recent appointments to the Independent Panel on Members remuneration.

BACKGROUND

- 2 Members of the Independent Panel serve for a maximum term of 3 years, which may be renewed. This year the term of office has expired in respect of:
 - Brian Footit
 - Alexander Porter
 - John Wright
- 3 Of these, only Brian Footit has applied to serve a further term of office. An application was also received from Paul Hopson, who submitted his application as a result of the Council seeking Trades Union representation on the Panel. Mr Hopson was informed of the vacancy by the T&GWU. Alexander Porter has chosen to retire due to ill-health, and John Wright has declined to re-apply due to work commitments.
- 4 Following interview, a position on the Panel has been offered for a period of three years to Paul Hopson, and Brian Footit has also been offered a further three year term of office.
- 5 Members are asked to confirm the appointment of these new Members of the Panel, to each to serve for a period of up to 3 years.

- 6 Since the introduction of the banded scheme of allowances, and the linking of allowances to other indexes, the Panel tends to meet once or twice a year during the February/March period in order to review whether previous recommendations should be amended, or whether changes in circumstances require additional recommendations.
- 7 The Panel is due to meet in mid-March in order to undertake the 2008 - 2009 review of Members' allowances. In respect of the one outstanding vacancy, there is insufficient time to recruit and appoint in time for this year's review. It is therefore recommended that the existing panel of five members completes the review this year, and that recruitment is undertaken in the Autumn of this year in preparation for the 2009 review of allowances.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8 That Committee confirms the appointment of the following to the Independent Panel for a period of up to 3 years:
 - Brian Footit
 - Paul Hopson
- 9 That Committee agrees that recruitment to fill the outstanding place on the Panel is undertaken later in the year in preparation for the 2009 review of Members' allowances.

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