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REPORT

TO:

ON:

INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL AND MEMBERS ALLOWANCES 2013/14.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To request the Council to consider recommendations relating to the Independent Remuneration Panel and the Members Allowance Scheme for 2013/14.

2. BACKGROUND

In accordance with the requirements of the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council must refresh and adopt a Members Allowances Scheme with monthly payments made to Councillors at least every three years.

Council should note that the last review by Blackburn with Darwen Borough council Independent Remuneration Panel to Council Forum was 1st February 2010.

Effectively the Members Allowance Scheme for Blackburn with Darwen Borough council needs refreshing.

Council should also note that it has been several years since the Independent Remuneration Panel has been recruited to and refreshed. Accordingly Council are asked to agree that recruitment to a refreshed panel is done as soon as possible, (with an invite to existing members to reapply should they wish to continue).

Council should note that in refreshing and recruiting to a new Independent remuneration Panel, under the provisions of The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 Regulation 20 provides the panel must be independent, consist of at least three members none of whom —

(a) is also a member of an authority in respect of which it makes recommendations or is a member of a committee or sub-committee of such an authority; or

(b) is disqualified from being or becoming a member of an authority.

Should Council agree to recruit and refresh to a new Panel, in the meantime the existing scheme remains in operation in the absence of any review having taken place. In order to pro-actively address this, it is suggested that whilst advertising to refresh a new Independent Remuneration Panel takes place, Group Leaders agree a series of suggested revisions and improvements to the existing scheme for review by the new Panel. This would give the new Panel a framework on which to base some recommendations to Council. In accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 [regulation 19] the panel would then produce a report [regulation 21] for Council approval or otherwise.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Council advertise to refresh and recruit to a new Independent Remuneration Panel for 2013 onwards;
2. That Group Leaders agree a series of suggested revisions and improvements to the existing scheme for submission to a refreshed Independent Remuneration Panel for their opinion and consideration; and
3. That the Independent Remuneration Panel provide Council with a report detailing their recommendations to the Members Allowances Scheme for 2013/14 as soon as possible.

Harry Catherall
Chief Executive
30th April 2013

Background Papers:
Contact :

Independent Remuneration Panel File
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