

Constitution and Ethics Committee: Minutes

Date: Tuesday 18th May 2021

Time: 1:00pm – 1:15pm

Venue: Conservation Hall, Imperial War Museum, Duxford

Present: Councillors Sebastian Kindersley (Chair), David Ambrose Smith, Alex Bulat, Lorna Dupré, Neil Gough, Mac McGuire, Kevin Reynolds and Tom Sanderson

1. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Apologies were received from Councillor Janet French.

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Appointment of an Independent Remuneration Panel

The Committee received a report considering the selection and appointment of Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) members, the Terms of Reference of the panel, and the proposed rate of remuneration. It was highlighted that local authorities were required to have a scheme of allowances for elected members, with a further requirement that an IRP be established to submit a report prior to the Council making or amending the scheme of allowances. The report proposed that the County Council appoint the four members of Peterborough City Council's IRP to be members of Cambridgeshire's IRP, based on their previous experience, knowledge and availability. The proposed Terms of Reference for the IRP were also attached as an appendix to the report.

While discussing the report, Members:

- Clarified that while the Committee had been delegated the authority to select and appoint the panel, the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 required the panel to be independent.
- Suggested that appointing the panel for a five-year term, rather than a four-year term, would ensure that a panel was already in place following the subsequent local election in 2025. However, it was argued that the appointment of a panel should be made by each administration rather than the previous Council. It was also noted that some local authorities carried out a review more frequently than the four years required by statute.
- Established that although two days had been proposed for the review, further time would be allocated if required. It was also noted that much of the review would be carried out using video conference facilities, thus reducing the cost.

- Considered whether the remuneration rate adopted by Huntingdonshire District Council of £200 a day plus expenses would be appropriate but agreed to maintain the current rate of £20 per hour for each member, with a maximum of £150 per day with the addition of travel and parking expenses if appropriate, as recommended in the report.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Appoint the four members of Peterborough City Council's Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) to be members of Cambridgeshire County Council's IRP;
- b) Agree the Terms of Reference of the Independent Review Panel at Appendix A of the report; and
- c) Maintain the current rate of remuneration for IRP members.

Chair