

<b>REPORT TO THE COUNCIL</b>		Report No. 10
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>24 June 2008</b>	
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Appointment of Independent Remuneration Panel</b>	
Link to Corporate Priorities	Good governance underpins all the Council's Corporate Priorities	
Public Report	Yes	

### Summary of Report

To consider the appointment of an Independent Remuneration Panel to make recommendations to Chippenham Town Council concerning the payment of allowances to Town Council Members.

### Officer Recommendations

- 1 **That authority be delegated to the Legal Services Manager in consultation with the Chairman of the Council to appoint an Independent Remuneration Panel in accordance with the procedure set out in the report.**
- 2 **That authority be delegated to the Legal Services Manager in consultation with the Town Council to determine the allowances to be paid to members of the Independent Remuneration Panel.**

Other than those implications agreed with the relevant Officers and referred to below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications	Legal Implications	Community & Environmental Implications	Human Resources Implications	Equality & Diversity Implications
Yes	Yes	None	None	None

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## **1. Introduction**

To consider the appointment of an Independent Remuneration Panel to make recommendations to Chippenham Town Council concerning the payment of allowances to Town Council Members.

## **2. Options**

- 2.1 To appoint an Independent Remuneration Panel in accordance with the recommendation.
- 2.2 To appoint an Independent Remuneration Panel otherwise than in accordance with the recommendation.

## **3. Background**

- 3.1 Every District Council should have an Independent Remuneration Panel to make recommendations concerning amendments to the Members' Allowance Scheme.
- 3.2 Approximately two years ago the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel effectively ceased to exist as a result of the resignation or disqualification of its members. A decision was taken not to re-appoint the Panel in view of the transition to a unitary authority.
- 3.3 The legislation provides that the Independent Remuneration Panel of the District also acts as the Independent Remuneration Panel for Towns and Parishes within the District.
- 3.4 The legislation enables Town and Parish Councils to pay their Members parish basic allowance and travelling and subsistence allowance but only on the recommendation of an Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 3.5 Chippenham Town Council wish to pay allowances to Members and have requested that the matter be referred to the District Council's Independent Remuneration Panel for consideration.
- 3.6 The Council cannot lawfully refuse the request and will need to appoint an Independent Remuneration Panel in order to deal with it.

## **4. The Appointment of an Independent Remuneration Panel**

- 4.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel must have at least three members.
- 4.2 The procedure for making appointments is not prescribed but the guidance suggests a combination of public advertisement and stakeholder nominations. The critical consideration is to ensure that the Independent Remuneration Panel is seen to be truly independent in the eyes of the public.
- 4.3 The approach outlined above seems impractical given the imminence of unitary status.

4.4 Consequently, the recommendation is that the Independent Remuneration Panel should comprise three members who are already members of other Independent Remuneration Panels in Wiltshire, or who have previously been such members.

4.5 Preliminary inquiries reveal that it ought to be possible to appoint an Independent Remuneration Panel by adopting this approach, but it will be necessary to delegate the actual appointments to the Legal Services Manager in consultation with the Chairman of the Council.

## 5. Financial Implications

5.1 Allowances can be paid to members of the Independent Remuneration Panel. The amount of the allowances are entirely discretionary. In this particular case any allowance paid will be recoverable from the Town Council. The recommendation is that authority be delegated to the Legal Services Manager in consultation with the Town Council to determine the amount of allowances to be paid to the Independent Remuneration Panel.

## 6. Legal Implications

6.1 The legal implications are contained within the report.

## 7. Risk Analysis

The Council is legally obliged to provide administrative and professional support for the Independent Remuneration Panel. This will be an additional call on already stretched resources in view of the transition to unitary status.

<b>Appendices:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:</b>	<b>None</b>

### Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

<b>Report</b>	<b>Committee &amp; Date</b>	<b>Minute Reference</b>
<b>None</b>		