

**Wiltshire Council**

**Full Council**

**18 October 2022**

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**Statement from the Chairman of the Independent Remuneration Panel  
regarding the Independent Remuneration Panel Recommendation - Audit &  
Governance Committee**

The Independent Remuneration Panel was appointed in 2021 to undertake a full review of members allowances. This was debated by Full Council in July 2021.

It is best practice that the Panel produce annual reports considering any in-year changes required to the Members' Allowance Scheme. Changes may be prompted by amendments to roles, responsibilities, governance arrangements or government guidance that would warrant a review of a specific area of the scheme.

On 1 March 2022, following a resolution at the Audit & Governance Committee, the Panel was asked to consider the remuneration of a proposed Independent Co-opted Member of that committee. Full Council subsequently resolved to change the constitution to allow the addition of co-opted independent member(s) of the Audit & Governance Committee (17 May 2022).

The Panel met on four occasions between 8 April and 6 May 2022 and based its deliberations upon an assessment of the responsibility, accountability, time, and effort required for the role of independent co-opted member. The Panel considered a range of written and verbal evidence to support its conclusions.

In its Report last year, the Panel recognised the significant extra responsibilities in terms of the council's financial management and regulatory framework undertaken by the Committee and its Chairman - the Panel was therefore convinced that this is a significant role and that as the council has not previously had a similar position, the appointee will have a considerable impact upon the shaping, influence, and direction of the Committee.

The Panel therefore concluded that the independent person should receive remuneration. And given, that ideally the independent member should be someone with relevant experience, that remuneration should be at the higher end of the scale given to other independent members of committees.

**John Quinton, Chairman of the Independent Remuneration Panel**

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