



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Agenda Item No: 1.7

Appointment of Independent Remuneration Panel: Members Allowance Scheme

To: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Board

Meeting Date: 29 September 2021

Public report: Yes

Lead Member: Mayor Dr Nik Johnson

From: Robert Parkin
Chief Legal Officer & Monitoring Officer

Key decision: No

Recommendations: The Combined Authority Board is recommended to:

- a) Agree that an Independent Remuneration Panel made up of the Chairs of the Independent Remuneration Panels of the Constituent Councils be constituted to review the Members' Allowance Scheme for the Combined Authority in relation to the Mayor's allowance.
- b) Discuss whether officers engage South East Employers or invite an officer from a constituent council to manage the Independent Remuneration Panel.

Voting arrangements: A simple majority of all Members present and voting.

To be carried, the vote must include the vote of the Mayor, or the Deputy Mayor when acting in place of the Mayor.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The Combined Authority Board is asked to agree that an Independent Remuneration Panel be constituted to review the Members' Allowance Scheme for the Combined Authority in relation to the Mayor's allowance.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Members' Allowance Scheme was adopted by the Combined Authority Board on 28 June 2017 following a report from the Independent Remuneration Panel dated April 2017. The scheme included the allowance paid to the Mayor.
- 2.2 A review of the Members' Allowance Scheme was undertaken in 2018/19 which recommended an allowance of £80,000 per annum should be payable to the Mayor to reflect the changing role and responsibilities since 2017.
- 2.3 The Independent Remuneration Panel in 2017 advised that review of the scheme should be undertaken every 24 months. In light of the change in leadership at the Combined Authority it is prudent at this time for a review of the current Member Allowance Scheme to be undertaken.
- 2.4 At the Combined Authority (CA) Board on the 28 July 2021 the Board requested that officers investigate whether an Independent Remuneration Panel might be established with one or more constituent councils.
- 2.5 Regulation 20(1) in Part 4 of the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 allows an authority to set up an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) itself, or authorities jointly to do so. If it is to be a joint IRP, the CA would need to use the same IRP Members to consider allowances for whatever Authorities it has been established to deal with. So in this case, the CA would need to be using all the Members of an existing IRP to also review the Mayor's allowances.
- 2.6 If the CA chooses to set up an IRP itself, the rest of Regulation 20 applies and the authority concerned would need to make its own arrangements to recruit a Panel of a minimum of 3 Members.
- 2.7 The Combined Authority could decide to invite the Chairs of other Constituent Councils Independent Remuneration Panels to serve on their IRP. Each constituent council has an IRP (Cambridgeshire CC and Peterborough CC have a joint panel) and therefore the CA Board could choose to invite the 6 Chairs to form an Independent Remuneration Panel to consider the Mayor's Allowances.
- 2.8 There is a lack of experience within the CPCA Governance Team in running IRPs and therefore to ensure the process was carried out effectively we would suggest either:
 - a) requesting one of the constituent councils put forward one of their officers with the experience to run the panel – there would be a fee for supporting the panel.
 - b) engage the services of an external organisation to provide the expertise to run the Panel. (Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council employ South East Employers to carry out their IRP)

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 The estimated cost of the panel is £20 per hour with a maximum of £150 per day per panel member plus expenses. The panel would potentially consist of 6 members.
- 3.2 If the Board choose to request that a constituent council provide an officer to run the panel there will be a fee from the host authority for this work at an average cost of £1,000.
- 3.3 If the Board choose to engage the service of an external provider such as South East Employers the general fee to support a Council members' allowances review is £3,750.
- 3.2 Further budgetary provision to cover any additional Member allowances will be dependent on the outcome of any recommendation made by the Independent Remuneration Panel.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 None.

5. Background Papers

- 5.1 [Combined Authority Board Report – 28 June 2017](#)
- 5.2 [Combined Authority Board Report – 28 November 2018](#)
- 5.3 [Combined Authority Board Report – 29 May 2019](#)
- 5.4 [Combined Authority Board Report and Decision Summary 28th July 2021](#)