



Annual Council
14 May 2012

Subject: Appointments to the Remuneration Panel

Report by:	Monitoring Officer
Contact Officer:	Alan Robinson Revenues Benefits and Customer Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer Alan.robinson@west-lindsey.gov.uk 01427 676509
Purpose / Summary:	To appoint three Independent Members to serve on the Council's Remuneration Panel.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the persons named in paragraph 2 be appointed to serve on the Remuneration Panel from 14 May 2012.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: None associated with this report.

Financial : The level of remuneration is as set out in the Council's Constitution, i.e. £38.18 for the first four hours of a meeting and a second payment for attendance in excess of four hours.

Staffing : None associated with this report.

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

*NB: A full impact assessment **HAS TO BE** attached if the report relates to any new or revised policy or revision to service delivery/introduction of new services.*

Risk Assessment : N/A

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities : None

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

None

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one to which Rule 14 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

Yes

No

Key Decision:

Yes

No

1. Background

- 1.1 West Lindsey's Remuneration Panel was first appointed in 2001 and comprises six members.
- 1.2 The period of office of two Members of the Remuneration Panel expires in May 2012 and there is also one vacancy.
- 1.3 The Council newsletter was used to advertise the vacancy and 16 applications were received. Copies of the advertisement, letter and person specification are attached at Appendix A. Members have been sent a copy of the successful Applications under separate cover.
- 1.4 Shortlisting took place and Interviews were held on 19 and 21 March 2012 and the Panel consisted of Councillors David Cotton and Jessie Milne, along with the Revenues Benefits and Customer Services Manager.

2. Recommended for Appointment

- 2.1 It is **RECOMMENDED** that the following be appointed to serve on the Remuneration Panel until May 2015:
 - Peter Clay
 - Wayne Rigby
 - Maddy Brown



WANT TO DO SOMETHING WORTHWHILE FOR YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF WEST LINDSEY'S REMUNERATION PANEL?

West Lindsey District Council is looking for three Members for its independent Remuneration Panel, which is responsible for making recommendations to the authority about the allowances to be paid to Members. The Council is looking for someone who is not directly involved with the Council to make certain that the work of the Panel is fair, open and effective.

The Council needs someone who is resident or working in the District, who is objective and politically independent, with the ability to analyse information, to join the Panel.

In return you can look forward to doing something interesting and worthwhile for the local community. You will be paid an allowance of £38.18 per meeting plus travelling expenses.

If this opportunity interests you but you would like to discuss it further without committing yourself, please telephone Alan Robinson, Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services Manager on 01427 676509. Alternatively, you can just request an information pack and application details by calling the same number or 01427 594 / 5.

Closing Date: 31st January 2012

The Council has a commitment to equal opportunities and welcomes applicants from all sections of the community. Also we operate a no smoking policy.



REMUNERATION PANEL

PERSON SPECIFICATION

General

To be eligible for appointment, a person must not be disqualified from holding office as a member of the local authority. Accordingly, any person who is recommended for appointment will be required to confirm that he/she is not disqualified. Details of the disqualifications are set out overleaf.

Selection Criteria

Prospective members should –

1. Live or work in the West Lindsey District.
2. Have an understanding of Local Government and broader community issues.
3. Have the ability to act impartially.
4. Be aged over 18.
5. Not be a Councillor of any local authority (including Town/Parish Councils).
6. Not be directly related to a West Lindsey District Councillor.
7. Not be employed by West Lindsey District Council.
8. Not be a member of any political party.
9. Be able to analyse information, ask pertinent questions and maintain confidentiality.

DISQUALIFICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT

Summary of Sections 80 and 81 of the Local Government Act 1972

1. A person shall be disqualified from being appointed if he/she:
 - (a) holds any paid office or employment with the Authority;
 - (b) is a person who has been adjudged bankrupt or made a composition or arrangement with his/her creditors;
 - (c) has, within five years before the day of his/her appointment, been convicted of any offence and had passed upon him/her a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of not less than three months without the option of a fine;
 - (d) has been convicted of a corrupt or illegal practice under Part III of the Representation of the People Act 1983;
 - (e) is disqualified for membership for a specified period by Order of the Court because of his/her involvement in expenditure contrary to law; and
 - (f) is disqualified from membership for five years following an Auditor's certificate that a loss or deficiency has been caused by his/her wilful misconduct while a member of a local authority.

2. The disqualification attaching to a person by reason of having been adjudged bankrupt ceases:–
 - (a) on his/her discharge from bankruptcy unless the bankruptcy order made against the person is previously annulled; and
 - (b) if the bankruptcy order is so annulled, on the date of the annulment.

3. The disqualification attaching to a person by reason of his/her having made a composition or arrangement with his/her creditors ceases:–
 - (a) on the date on which payment is completed if he/she pays the debts in full; or
 - (b) in any other case, on the expiration of five years from the date on which the terms of the deed of composition or arrangement are fulfilled.

If you have any queries as to whether or not you may be disqualified from appointment, please ring Alan Robinson, Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services Manager on 01427 676509.



THE ORGANISATION

Formed on 1st April 1974 by the amalgamation of five constituent Authorities (*Gainsborough Urban, Market Rasen Urban, Caistor Rural, Gainsborough Rural and Welton Rural District Councils*), West Lindsey District Council covers the north-western area of Lincolnshire, an area of some 445 square miles, and serves a population of approximately 86,500. The District contains part of the Lincolnshire Wolds area of natural beauty, 25 conservation areas and 1,000 listed buildings.

The new administrative headquarters of the District Council are located at the Guildhall, Marshall's Yard, Gainsborough. Gainsborough stands on the western boundary and is a river port which serves the Humber. The town also boasts a particularly fine example of a 15th Century Manor House -The Old Hall.

Area Offices are situated in Market Rasen and Caistor. Operational Works Depots are located at Gainsborough and Market Rasen.

The Council has 37 Members (21 Conservatives, 11 Liberal Democrats and three Independents and two Labour) who are elected to serve for four years. The 37 Councillors represent the 26 Wards within West Lindsey. The concentration of population in some Wards necessitates their representation by two, or even three, councillors.

The Council currently employs around 300 people. The Council operates through a number of Committees and Directorates/Divisions which are responsible for advising in terms of service delivery, policy formation, expenditure, etc. There are two policy committees – Policy and Resources Committee and Prosperous Communities Committee, as well as Challenge and Improvement Committee (Scrutiny), Development Management Committee (Planning), Governance and Audit Committee, Licensing and Regulatory Committee, Standards Committee and a Taxi and General Licensing Sub-Committee



REMUNERATION PANEL

The Local Government Act 2000 reformed the system for paying allowances to elected members and, in particular, required the establishment and maintenance of an independent Remuneration Panel to provide the Council with advice on its Members' Allowances Scheme. The Council must have regard to this advice.

West Lindsey's Remuneration Panel was first appointed in 2001 and comprised three members and a reserve member. The Council has since decided to increase the size of the Panel to five or six members. The period of office of three members of the Remuneration Panel expires in May 2012.

The Panel makes recommendations to the Council about the level of basic allowance paid to all members, the categories of special responsibilities for which special responsibility allowances may be made, the levels of those allowances, the rates of any child care/ dependant carers' allowance and travel and subsistence allowances, and member eligibility for a pension.

The Council provides the Remuneration Panel with appropriate administrative support, information about the roles of Councillors and the way in which the Authority operates and discharges its functions.

Members of the Remuneration Panel receive £38.18 per meeting and their travelling expenses.

It is for the Council itself to approve the Members' Allowances Scheme; the role of the Remuneration Panel is to make recommendations.

The Council recognises the importance of finding the right independent people for appointment to the Remuneration Panel and aims to select appointees not only based on skills and experience, but also on attitude and approach. The successful applicant will need to demonstrate that he/she matches the person specification. The Council sees the operation of the Independent Remuneration Panel as crucial in providing an impartial element which will enhance public confidence in the allowances system.