



Annual Council

14 May 2018

Subject: Appointment to the Remuneration Panel

Report by:

Monitoring Officer

Contact Officer:

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Purpose / Summary:

To appoint an Independent Member to serve on the Council's Remuneration Panel.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

(a) That the person named in paragraph 2.1 be re-appointed to serve on the Remuneration Panel from 14 May 2018 for a period of 3 years to 2021.

(b) That the remaining post be carried as vacant until May 2019.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: None associated with this report.

Financial : FIN 23-19-CC The level of remuneration is as set out in the Council's Constitution, £200 per Civic year. This cost will be contained within existing budgets.

Staffing: None associated with this report.

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights : None

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

X

Key Decision:

Yes

No

X

1. Background

- 1.1 West Lindsey's Remuneration Panel was first appointed in 2001 and can consist of between five and seven members.
- 1.2 The period of office of two Members of the Remuneration Panel expires in May 2018.
- 1.3 West Lindsey website plus social media was used to advertise the vacancies and five applications were received, which included the two current postholders. Copies of the advertisement, person specification and background information are attached at Appendix A.
- 1.4 Interviews were held on 27 March 2018 for 4 candidates, the fifth candidate being interviewed on a later date of 16 April 2018 (due to being out of the country on the set interview date). The Panel comprised Councillor Giles McNeill, Alan Robinson (Strategic Lead for Governance and People/Monitoring Officer/Returning Officer), and James O'Shaughnessy (Corporate Policy Manager/Deputy Monitoring Officer).

2. Recommended for Appointment

- 2.1 It is **RECOMMENDED** that the following candidate be re-appointed to serve on the Remuneration Panel, for a three year period, until May 2021:

Mr Peter Clay
- 2.2 It is **RECOMMENDED** that the second expired post be carried as vacant until May 2019.



Annual Allowance **Independent Remuneration Panel Member**

Would you like to be an Independent Member of West Lindsey's Remuneration Panel?

We are looking for two members for our independent Remuneration Panel, which is responsible for making recommendations to the authority about the allowances to be paid to members. We are looking for people who are not directly involved with the council to make certain that the work of the panel is fair, open and effective.

We need people who are resident or working in the district, who are 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 annual allowance of £200 plus travelling expenses.

If this opportunity interests you but you would like to discuss it further without committing yourself, please telephone Alan Robinson on 01427 676509. Alternatively, request an information pack and application details by calling 01427 676594/5.

Closing date: Thursday 15 March 2018

Interviews will be held on Tuesday 27 March 2018 in the Guildhall.

You can check out the latest information on councillor's allowances by visiting: www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/your-council/your-councillors/members-allowances/

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, Strategic Lead Governance & People on 01427 676529.



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 89,250. 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 36 Members (24 Conservatives, 7 Liberal Democrats, one Independent, one Independent Lincolnshire and two Labour) who are elected to serve for four years. The 36 Councillors represent the 20 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 – Corporate Policy and Resources Committee and Prosperous Communities Committee, as well as Challenge and Improvement Committee (Scrutiny), Planning Committee, Governance and Audit Committee, Licensing Committee, Regulatory Committee and Standards 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 two members of the Remuneration Panel expires in May 2018.

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 £200 per annum 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.