



Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	COUNCIL – 21 <sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022
Report Number	AGENDA ITEM 10
Subject	APPOINTMENT TO THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL
Wards affected	ALL
Accountable member	Cllr Joe Harris - Leader of the Council Email: <a href="mailto:joe.harris@cotswold.gov.uk">joe.harris@cotswold.gov.uk</a>
Accountable officer	Angela Claridge, Director of Governance & Development Email: <a href="mailto:angela.claridge@cotswold.gov.uk">angela.claridge@cotswold.gov.uk</a>
Summary/Purpose	The purpose of this report is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To appoint a person to be a member of the Independent Remuneration Panel.</li> </ul>
Annexes	None
Recommendation(s)	<i>That Council agrees to appoint Stefan Robinson as the third member of the Independent Remuneration Panel with immediate effect.</i>
Corporate priorities	Not Applicable
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	Head of Legal Services Business Manager – Democratic Services



## **1. BACKGROUND**

1.1 The Council is required, under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 and the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2003 to appoint an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) to make recommendations to the Council on a Scheme of Members' Allowances for Adoption.

1.2 The purpose of this report is to appoint a new member of the IRP.

## **2. REPORT**

2.1 The appointment and purpose of the Panel is to review the Members' Allowances Scheme and make recommendations to Council about the allowances to be paid to elected Councillors. The Council must have regard to the recommendations of the IRP when making or amending its Scheme.

2.2 Public perception of the independence of the IRP and the robustness of the review process is important. The Regulations require that the Panel members shouldn't be formally connected with the Council. It is also essential for the Council to ensure the Panel remains representative and in touch with the issues and challenges faced by those making decisions.

2.3 The members of the Panel are:

Mrs Jane Winstanley, M.B.E. - independent Chair - who has served on the Panel since its original inception.

Mr Michael Paget-Wilkes – one of the independent persons who assists the Monitoring Officer in the consideration of Code of Conduct complaints relating to district/parish/town councillors.

2.4 The third member of the panel was Mr Richard Blamey who has resigned and therefore, the Council must appoint a third member to the IRP Panel.

2.5 Mr Stefan Robinson has previous experience of undertaking this role for Cherwell District Council and currently works full time as Head of Policy & PMO at Hammersmith and Fulham Council. Stefan brings a great deal of relevant knowledge and experience. In addition, he doesn't have any formal political party affiliation, isn't an employee of, or an elected member of this Council, and is not currently a close friend/relative of an elected member of Cotswold District Council.



### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 Full Council, at its meeting on 26 May 2021, recommended that each Panel member is paid £250 as a one-off payment per annum in recognition of the time commitment by members of the Panel. If Mr Robinson's appointment is approved, he will also be entitled to this payment, which has been budgeted for.

### **4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 set out the requirements for appointment to the Independent Remuneration Panel. The 2003 Regulations do not specify how a local authority should go about sourcing members of its remuneration panel. However, appointments to the independent Remuneration Panel must be independent and well qualified to discharge the functions of the Panel.

### **5. EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is not relevant to this decision

### **6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 6.1 The Council could decide not to appoint Mr Robinson but will still need to source a third member of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

### **7. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 The following documents have been identified by the author of the report in accordance with section 100D.5(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 and are listed in accordance with section 100 D.1(a) for inspection by members of the public:

- None

These documents will be available for inspection at the Council Offices at Trinity Road, Cirencester, GL7 1PX during normal office hours for a period of up to 4 years from the date of the meeting. Please contact democratic services via [democratic@cotswold.gov.uk](mailto:democratic@cotswold.gov.uk)

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