

Interim Report of the Boston Borough Council
Independent Remuneration Panel
For the Co-Opted Independent Members' Allowance

1. Introduction

The Independent Remuneration Panel has a responsibility to make recommendations to the Council on the level of allowances to be paid to members of the Council. This report has been prepared in accordance with current legislation and guidance.

The recognised principles for the Independent Remuneration Panel when considering a scheme of remuneration are that it should be: -

- justifiable and defensible, based on logical construction;
- transparent and simple to understand and administer;
- should neither discourage nor encourage candidates for financial considerations;

The Panel can make recommendations about the level of the basic allowance, special responsibility allowances, dependant carers' allowances, travel and subsistence allowances and co-optees' allowances.

2. Review Process

The Independent Remuneration Panel met on 20 June 2024 to commence a review on the Members Allowances for 2025-26.

The Panel was made aware that the Co-opted Independent Member of the Council's Audit and Governance Committee had resigned and there was now a requirement for the Council to appoint a replacement.

3. Amendments to the Members' Allowance Scheme

It was noted that the current published Members' Allowance Scheme did not make reference to the Co-opted Independent Members' Allowance.

The Panel recommends that the published Members' Allowance Scheme be updated to include the Co-opted Independent Members' Allowance.

4. Co-opted Independent Members' Allowance

The Panel was made aware that the Council would be advertising for a replacement across the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership, as the other two authorities were also in a position to appoint new Co-opted Independent Members. The joint process would enable individuals to apply for the position at an individual council or across the partnership.

The allowance for a Co-opted Independent Member is set at £650 p/a for both East Lindsey District Council and South Holland District Council, whereas the current allowance at Boston for this role is lower, at £486.24.

It is the opinion of the Independent Remuneration Panel that the allowance for Co-opted Independent Member(s) of the Audit and Governance Committee in Boston Borough Council should also be set at £650 p/a in line with the other Partnership Authorities, the rate having

been determined to be commensurate with an hourly rate based on the technical expertise necessary for the role and the time commitment required.

The Panel recommends that the allowance for the Co-opted Independent Member(s) of the Audit and Governance Committee be increased to £650 p/a with immediate effect.

5. Conclusion

The key focus of the Independent Remuneration Panel when considering revisions to the Co-opted Independent Members' Allowance is to achieve allowances that will not deter an average working person from standing for the position, or result in an individual being financially disadvantaged if they have to take unpaid leave from their job to carry out this role.