

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Agenda Item:</b>
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<b>Meeting Date</b>	27 July 2016
<b>Report Title</b>	Appointment of Local Independent Member for Swale to the Joint Independent Members' Remuneration Panel
<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	The Leader - Councillor Andrew Bowles
<b>SMT Lead</b>	Director of Corporate Services
<b>Head of Service</b>	Head of Legal and Democratic Services
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
<b>Key Decision</b>	No
<b>Classification</b>	Open report with exempt appendix

<b>Recommendation</b>	1. Council is asked to agree the appointment of Mr Lionel Robbins as the Local Independent Member for Swale to the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel for a three year term of office.
	2. That Independent Members of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel be restricted to two consecutive three year terms of office to maintain their independence.

## **1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary**

- 1.1 In accordance with the requirements of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2001, the Council is required to have an Independent Members' Remuneration Panel whose purpose is to make recommendations to the Council on its Members' Allowance Scheme and that of Parish Councils.
- 1.2 The Swale Independent Review Panel is due to meet in September 2016, to undertake a full review of the allowances scheme. As the term of office of the Local Independent Member for Swale expired in September 2015, and he had not confirmed that he would be willing to continue in the role, a recruitment process has been undertaken to find a new Local Independent Member and the Chamber of Commerce has been approached again to put forward a representative.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 In September 2010 Council agreed to establish a joint Independent Members' Remuneration Panel with Maidstone Borough Council. The Panel had four Members, namely a Local Independent Member from the Swale area, a Local Independent Member from the Maidstone area, a representative from South East

Employers and a representative from Maidstone Chamber of Commerce. The Panel is due to meet in September and will carry out a full review of the allowances scheme – Members will be asked to contribute their views via a questionnaire and there will be some opportunity for members to meet with the Panel.

- 2.2 The recruitment process commenced in May 2016 and the Council advertised the position over a 3 week period in the following ways: online media (Twitter and Facebook), advertisement on Swale Borough Council's website under job vacancies; advertising through the Swale Council for Voluntary Service (CVS).
- 2.3 Democratic Services sent out two information packs in response to expressions of interest and received two application forms. One of the applicants was a current Parish Councillor and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2001 (Part 20 (2) (a), was not eligible to sit on the panel. The remaining applicant was interviewed and, further to the interview, we are recommending the appointment of Mr Lionel Robbins as the Local Independent Member for Swale.

### **3 Proposal**

- 3.1 Council is asked to agree the appointment of Mr Lionel Robbins as the Local Independent Member for Swale to the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel for a three year term of office. To comply with corporate governance guidelines, we are also proposing that Independent Members of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel be restricted to two consecutive three year terms of office to maintain their independence.

### **4 Alternative Options**

- 4.1 Council could decide not to appoint to the post and the vacancy could be re-advertised but this is not recommended as the proposed candidate fully meets the person specification and criteria. In addition, the legislation requires the Panel to have at least three Members and the next review by the Panel is due to commence in September 2016.

### **5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed**

- 5.1 The Leader is aware of the process being followed and the suggested recommendation..

### **6 Implications**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Implications</b>
Corporate Plan	The appointment of the Independent Member enables the Council to demonstrate good governance and discharge its duty to have an

	independent panel for the purposes of reviewing the Members' Allowances Scheme on an annual basis.
Financial, Resource and Property	The position is voluntary; any expenses are set on a travelling and subsistence only basis and shared equally with Maidstone Borough Council.
Legal and Statutory	The appointment complies with the requirements of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2001.
Crime and Disorder	None identified at this stage.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	Risks of not complying with the statutory requirements will be mitigated by the actions suggested in the recommendation to the report.
Equality and Diversity	No adverse equality or diversity implications, procedures apply equally.
Sustainability	None identified at this stage.

## 7 Appendices

- 7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:
- Appendix I: **Exempt** - details of person recommended for appointment as Independent Member

## 8 Background Papers

- 8.1 None