

Audit & Governance Committee

Update on appointment of Panel

The Committee will recall that its last meeting held on 26 July 2018, I submitted a report asking the Committee to note the current position that the Panel found itself in as we had received the resignation from one of the Panel Members. Under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, this meant that the Panel had to cease its work as the Regulations stipulate that a Panel must consist of at least three Members. My report sought the Committee's approval for an immediate recruitment exercise to commence to appoint further members to the Panel and to confirm the Independent Remuneration Panel's Interview Panel.

I am delighted to be able to confirm that since that meeting interviews took place on 8 October 2018 and four new Panel Members have been recruited – making a Panel of 6. All Group Leaders were consulted on the recruitment proposals which were very quickly approved. Both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of this Committee sat on the interview Panel along with John Thompson as Chairman of the current Independent Remuneration Panel.

The new Panel now consists of:

John Thompson
Roger Hamson
Sarah Miles
Celia Thomson-Hitchcock
Alan Landley
Andrew Kelly

At the start of November, following an Induction process, the Panel immediately started its work on this review and is making good progress. However, it is important for the Committee to understand that the timescale that the Panel is working to, to complete this review is very tight.

In the past Panels have taken between six and eight months to complete their report. The Panel has just three months to ensure that a draft report is ready to bring to this Committee in February 2019 and then recommend onto Full Council on 13 March 2019.

The Panel has just asked me to circulate to Members a questionnaire and interviews will be planned soon.

Between now and this time, the report will also need to go through the consultation process and there is much information gathering for the Panel to do too.

The Panel is willing to work to a timetable that aims to deliver its final report by February 2019, but to achieve this, they will need Members' support, particularly:

- Supporting the process and timescales that will mean that the Panel will ask for interviews over two or three days rather than to suit invited interviewees and it will mean that the draft report consultation process will have to be much shorter. The Panel has already asked for the questionnaires to be completed more quickly than usual

The Committee is asked to note this update report.