

**North Tyneside Council**  
**Officer Delegated Decision Report**  
**Date: 24 August 2023**

**Title: Appointment of Independent Remuneration Panel Members**

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<b>Portfolio(s):</b> Elected Mayor	<b>Cabinet Member(s):</b>	<b>Dame Norma Redfearn, Elected Mayor</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>Paul Hanson, Chief Executive</b>	<b>Tel: (0191) 643 2000</b>
<b>Wards affected:</b>	<b>All</b>	

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**PART 1**

**1.1 Executive Summary:**

Local authorities are required by the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 ("the Regulations") to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel to make recommendations on the level of basic and special responsibility allowances that are paid to councillors, along with recommendations on other associated matters.

This report proposes that the individuals who have previously served as Independent Remuneration Panel members for the Authority (Mr John Anderson CBE, Mr Les Watson and Dr Rachid Zemouri) are reappointed as the Independent Remuneration Panel for a period up to 31 March 2025.

## **1.2 Recommendation(s):**

It is recommended that the Chief Executive confirms that Mr John Anderson CBE, Mr Les Watson and Dr Rachid Zemouri are appointed to comprise the Independent Remuneration Panel for a period up to 31 March 2025; under the authority delegated to the Chief Executive under paragraph CE8 of the Officer Delegation Scheme (Version 22, May 2023).

## **1.3 Forward Plan:**

Twenty eight days notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 18 August 2023.

## **1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework**

This report ensures compliance with a statutory requirement which the Authority must adhere to, and is not directly relevant to the priorities set out in the Council Plan.

## **1.5 Information:**

### Background

- 1.5.1 The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 require all local authorities in England to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel. The Independent Remuneration Panel must comprise of at least three members, none of whom can be an elected member of the Authority or an individual who would be disqualified from being or becoming a member of the Authority.
- 1.5.2 Regulation 21 of the above-referenced regulations states that the Independent Remuneration Panel is responsible for producing a report in relation to the authority or authorities in respect of which it was established, making recommendations relating to the following:
- (a) The responsibilities or duties in respect of which the following allowances should be available:
- Special Responsibility Allowance
  - Travelling and subsistence allowance
  - Co-optees' allowance

- (b) The amount of such allowances, and the amount of basic allowance
- (c) Whether dependants' carers allowance should be payable to members of an authority and the amount of such an allowance
- (d) Whether, if the scheme is amended at any time so as to affect an allowance payable for the year in which the amendment is made, payment of allowances may be backdated in accordance with regulation 10(6)
- (e) Whether adjustments to an allowance may be determined according to an index and if so which index and how long that index should apply, subject to a maximum of four years, before its application is reviewed
- (f) Which members of an Authority are to be entitled to pensions in accordance with a scheme made under Section 7 of the Superannuation Act 1972
- (g) Whether to treat basic allowances or special responsibility allowance, or both, as amounts in respect of which such pensions are payable in accordance with a scheme made under section 7 of the Superannuation Act 1972.

1.5.3 The Authority has established (in accordance with the Regulations) an Independent Remuneration Panel comprising Mr John Anderson CBE, who has acted as Chair of the Panel; Mr Les Watson and Dr Rachid Zemouri. All three persons have indicated that they would be willing to continue as Independent Remuneration Panel members. Accordingly, it is proposed to reappoint Mr Anderson, Mr Watson and Dr Zemouri as members of North Tyneside Council's Independent Remuneration Panel for a period of up to 2 years from 2023/24 (until 31 March 2025).

1.5.4 An authority may pay the expenses incurred by an independent remuneration panel in carrying out its functions and may pay the members of the panel such allowances or expenses as the Authority or Authorities for which it makes recommendations may determine. Arrangements for payment of allowances to the Independent Remuneration Panel are set out in the Constitution.

## **1.6 Decision options:**

The following decision options are available for consideration by the Chief Executive:

### Option 1

The Chief Executive may confirm the reappointment of the three Independent Remuneration Panel members outlined above.

### Option 2

The Chief Executive may not confirm the reappointment of the three Independent Remuneration Panel members outlined above, and instead advertise for the positions of members of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

## **1.7 Reasons for recommended option:**

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

The current members of the Independent Remuneration Panel have served diligently as a Panel for North Tyneside previously; and all three members have indicated that they would be pleased to continue in their roles as Independent Remuneration Panel members. Accordingly, it would be efficient and effective to maintain continuity with the Independent Remuneration Panel arrangements and to consider further options for future Independent Remuneration Panel arrangements as the Authority approaches the end of 2024/25.

## **1.8 Appendices:**

None

## **1.9 Contact officers:**

Allison Mitchell, Head of Governance tel (0191) 643 5720

## **1.10 Background information:**

Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003:

## **PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING**

### **2.1 Finance and other resources**

The Authority's Constitution sets out allowances that may be paid to members of the Independent Remuneration Panel. For 2023/24 an amount of £500 per Panel Member (per annum) has been agreed and this amount is codified in Version 27 of the Constitution (May 2023). This amount can be funded from existing budgets.

### **2.2 Legal**

The legal implications are set out in the main body of this report.

Council has delegated authority to the Chief Executive to confirm the appointment of members of the Independent Remuneration Panel as referred to in the body of the report.

### **2.3 Consultation/community engagement**

There are no consultation / community engagement implications. The recommendation set out in this report allows the Authority to comply with a statutory requirement to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel.

### **2.4 Human rights**

There are no human rights implications associated with this report.

### **2.5 Equalities and diversity**

There are no equalities and diversity implications associated with this report.

### **2.6 Risk management**

Appointment of Independent Remuneration Panel members mitigates what would otherwise be a risk of non-compliance with the requirements set out in the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

## 2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications associated with this report.

## 2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no environment and sustainability implications associated with this report.

### PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Director(s) of Service
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)
- Chief Finance Officer
- Monitoring Officer
- Assistant Chief Executive