

**APPOINTMENT TO THE INDEPENDENT PANEL ON MEMBERS'  
ALLOWANCES**

*Report of the Chief Legal Officer*

Author: Steven Charteris, Head of Democratic & Statutory Services  
(Tel: 01992 555806)

**1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To seek the endorsement of County Council to the appointment of an independent person to the Hertfordshire Independent Panel on Members Allowances.

**2. Summary**

- 2.1 The Council is required by the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 to appoint and maintain an independent panel to make recommendations to the County Council on the content of the Council's Members' Allowances Scheme.
- 2.2 This year it became necessary to seek a new member to fill one vacancy which has arisen on the five member panel.

**3. Recommendation**

- 3.1 That Council endorses the actions of the Chief Legal Officer in appointing Sheena Garbutt JP to the Hertfordshire Independent Panel on Members Allowances.

**4. Background**

- 4.1 The Panel comprises 5 independent members. With the resignation of one member in late 2014 due to relocation, an advertisement was placed in Hertfordshire newspapers inviting applications to fill the vacancy. Dr Hazel Bentall, Alan Lawrence, Dr Paul Castle and Michelle Drapeau are the remaining members of the Panel.
- 4.2 Five applications were received and shortlisted candidates were interviewed by the Chief Legal Officer, Head of Democratic & Statutory Services and Dr Hazel Bentall.

- 4.3 Following the interviews Sheena Garbutt JP was selected. Brief details are set out below:

**Sheena Garbutt JP:** Sheena lives in St Albans and has a wide experience in the public sector in Hertfordshire and nationally.

She served as a Justice of the Peace for West and Central Hertfordshire, chairing adult and youth courts for 25 years. She was Youth Panel Chair (2008 – 2011); was a member and chair of the Hertfordshire Magistrates' Courts Committee (1996 - 2005) and Director of Central Council of Magistrates' Courts Committees (1999 to 2005).

Sheena was Governor and Lead Governor for Hertfordshire Partnership University Trust (2007 – 2013).

She was a school Governor at Prae Wood JMI School, St Albans Girls School and Verulam School in St Albans for many years.

She was Company Secretary and Director of Trafalgar Data Limited, which is an IT services company.

- 4.4 The appointment is for a five year term and will receive an allowance of £500 per annum, paid in quarterly instalments, along with travelling costs.

## **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 There are no additional costs arising from the filling of this panel vacancy.

### Background Information

Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003  
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2003/1021/part/3/made>