

APPOINTMENTS TO THE INDEPENDENT PANEL ON MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

Report of the Chief Legal Officer

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1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To seek the endorsement of County Council to the appointment of two independent persons 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 two new members to fill two vacancies which have arisen on the five member panel.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 That Council endorses the actions of the Chief Legal Officer and appoints Nicholas Eldred and Christopher Clark to the Hertfordshire Independent Panel on Members' Allowances.

4. Background

- 4.1 The Panel comprises 5 independent members. With the resignation of two members this year due to personal commitments, an advertisement was placed in Hertfordshire newspapers inviting applications to fill the vacancies. Dr Hazel Bentall, Alan Lawrence, and Michelle Drapeau are the remaining members of the panel.
- 4.2 Five applications were received and all candidates were interviewed by the Chief Legal Officer and Head of Democratic & Statutory Services.
- 4.3 Following the interviews Nicholas Eldred and Christopher Clark were selected. Brief details of each are set out below:

- 4.4 **Nicholas Eldred:** Nicholas is an experienced solicitor who has been general counsel & secretary of three well-known organisations: O2uk, the BBC and Christie's International, the fine arts business.

He is currently the general counsel & secretary of the Architectural Association where he is assisting with a major governance review. Nicholas is also consultant solicitor to the English National Ballet.

He chairs the board of trustees of a national youth-focused charity called the Public Service Broadcasting Trust (operating under the brand name "Fixers") and is a past trustee of BBC Children in Need.

- 4.5 **Christopher Clark:** Chris started his career with an insurance company and qualified as a Chartered Insurance Practitioner. Subsequently he moved to insurance brokers where he worked in risk management consultancy and completed health and safety qualifications which enabled him to become a Chartered Member of the Institute of Occupational Safety and Health.

In 2003 he moved to an international plastics manufacturing company where, in addition, he was responsible for Human Resources. After 11 years in manufacturing he moved back into consultancy initially working for a niche health and safety consultancy.

He is currently owner of a health and safety consultancy business aimed at helping Hertfordshire based small and medium sized enterprises improve their health and safety performance.

- 4.6 The appointments are for a five year term and 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 these panel vacancies.

Background Information

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