

Chichester District Council

Council

July 2023

Independent Persons Remuneration

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Council authorises an annual payment of £500 to each appointed independent person from 1st April 2023.
- 2.2 That the Council authorises that the payment for Mr Thompson be paid from 1st May 2022 in recognition of his carrying out the role for several years.

3. Background

- 3.1 Independent persons were created under the Localism Act 2011. As the name suggests they act as an external and independent part of the Code of Conduct. They attend standards committee as non-voting members, have an advisory role to Parishes, the District chairman of standards, complainants and members who are the subject of complaints, and are consulted by the Monitoring Officer or appointed investigators. They are also consulted on changes to the local Code of Conduct and related “Arrangements” (the procedures followed for investigations).
- 3.2 Standards committee met on 30th May to review the role and assessed the significant and important role the post provides to the authority and most importantly to complainants. It was also noted by Standards Committee that this authority is the only one in the region not making a payment to its independent persons. The Standards Committee debated this and directed the author of this report to prepare a further report to full Council to authorise a payment and setting out comparison data as to payments from other authorities.

3.3 During the debate members of standards committee noted that a current Independent person, Mr John Thompson has been carrying out the role for some time and been involved in significant work to that end without compensation. The Committee directed the Monitoring Officer to bring that to Full Council so that consideration of the second recommendation might take place to give a retrospective thanks for that work.

.4. Comparison Data

4.1 All Hampshire and West Sussex authorities were reviewed by simple online research by a legal officer by considering websites of those authorities. All authorities were found to provide payments to their independent persons. These ranged from X to Y, and an average of Z.

5. Proposal

5.1 That the Council makes an appropriate payment to Independent persons to reflect the valuable work they deliver for effective governance at the Council.

6. Resource and Legal Implications

6.1 Payment will be made from existing budget for member allowances. There is no legal duty to make a payment, but it is permissible in law.

7. Community Impact and Corporate Risks

7.1 Whilst the current Independent Persons are of extremely high calibre, there is a concern that future recruitment may be affected if the candidates were not recognised in this way.

8. Other Implications

Are there any implications for the following?		
	Yes	No
Crime and Disorder Some code of conduct matters relate to issues that are the subject of police or other criminal investigation.	x	
Climate Change and Biodiversity		x
Human Rights and Equality Impact Independent persons are active in protecting complainant and other party rights and consider these factors when consulted.	x	
Safeguarding and Early Help		x
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)		x
Health and Wellbeing		x

9. Appendices

9.1 Appendix 1 – Payment to independent Person comparison with all Hampshire and West Sussex Authorities.

10. Background Papers

10.1 None