

Council

Date: Monday, 16th December, 2019
Time: 5.45 pm (or on the rise of the earlier meeting)
Venue: Council Chamber - Guildhall, Bath

To: All Members of the Council

Dear Member

You are invited to attend a Special meeting of the **Council** on **Monday, 16th December, 2019** in the **Council Chamber - Guildhall, Bath**.

The agenda is set out overleaf.

Yours sincerely



Jo Morrison
Democratic Services Manager
for Chief Executive

NOTES:

1. Inspection of Papers: Papers are available for inspection as follows:

Council's website: <https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?bcr=1>

Paper copies are available for inspection at the Guildhall – Bath.

2. Details of decisions taken at this meeting can be found in the minutes which will be circulated with the agenda for the next meeting. In the meantime, details can be obtained by contacting as above.

3. Recording at Meetings:-

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 now allows filming and recording by anyone attending a meeting. This is not within the Council's control. Some of our meetings are webcast. At the start of the meeting, the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is to be filmed. If you would prefer not to be filmed for the webcast, please make yourself known to the camera operators. We request that those filming/recording meetings avoid filming public seating areas, children, vulnerable people etc; however, the Council cannot guarantee this will happen.

The Council will broadcast the images and sounds live via the internet www.bathnes.gov.uk/webcast. The Council may also use the images/sound recordings on its social media site or share with other organisations, such as broadcasters.

4. Emergency Evacuation Procedure

When the continuous alarm sounds, you must evacuate the building by one of the designated exits and proceed to the named assembly point. The designated exits are signposted. Arrangements are in place for the safe evacuation of disabled people.

5. Supplementary information for meetings

Additional information and Protocols and procedures relating to meetings
<https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13505>

Council - Monday, 16th December, 2019

at 5.45 pm in the Council Chamber - Guildhall, Bath

A G E N D A

1. EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chairman will draw attention to the emergency evacuation procedure as set out under Note 4.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

At this point in the meeting declarations of interest are received from Members in any of the agenda items under consideration at the meeting. Members are asked to complete the green interest forms circulated to groups in their pre-meetings (which will be announced at the Council Meeting) to indicate:

(a) The agenda item number in which they have an interest to declare.

(b) The nature of their interest.

(c) Whether their interest is **a disclosable pecuniary interest** *or* **an other interest**, (as defined in Part 2, A and B of the Code of Conduct and Rules for Registration of Interests)

Any Member who needs to clarify any matters relating to the declaration of interests is recommended to seek advice from the Council's Monitoring Officer or a member of his staff before the meeting to expedite dealing with the item during the meeting.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL OR FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

These are matters of information for Members of the Council. No decisions will be required arising from the announcements.

5. TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

If there is any urgent business arising since the formal agenda was published, the Chair will announce this and give reasons why it has been agreed for consideration at this meeting. In making this decision, the Chair will, where practicable, have consulted with the Leaders of the Political Groups. Any documentation on urgent business will be circulated at the meeting, if not made available previously.

6. ESTABLISHMENT OF INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES (Pages 5 - 10)

Council is asked to approve the appointment of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Members' Allowances.

The Committee Administrator for this meeting is Jo Morrison who can be contacted on 01225 394358.

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING:	Council	
MEETING DATE:	16 December 2019	
TITLE:	Establishment of Independent Remuneration Panel for Members' Allowances	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
Appendix 1: Membership of the Bristol City Council Independent Members' Allowances Review Panel		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 Council is asked to approve the appointment of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Members' Allowances.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Council is asked to;

- 2.1 Approve the appointment of the Independent Remuneration Panel and submit any suggestions for Panel consideration to the Monitoring Officer, before its first meeting in February 2020.

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 Group Leaders have requested that the Members' Allowances scheme is reviewed. The last review took place in 2017 and the current scheme was approved on 23rd March 2017. Since then, the Council has joined the West of England Combined Authority, there has been a change in the number of councillors and of the Administration.

- 3.2 The Council currently does not have an appointed Independent Remuneration Panel to review its Members Allowances scheme, as these have been set up on an ad-hoc basis as required. The Bristol City Council Independent Members' Allowances Review Panel have been informally asked if they would be willing to conduct a review on behalf of B&NES. They are an experienced Panel and have

recently reviewed Bristol's scheme and assisted with a review of the WECA scheme. This approach will save officers' and councillors' time and the cost of advertising and recruiting to a separate panel. The Bristol Panel will be available from early 2020.

- 3.3 Group Leaders have informally agreed that the above Panel be engaged, and this is now presented for Council's formal approval.
- 3.4 It is recommended that the Panel is advised by Bryony Holden, Chief Executive of South West Councils, who has considerable experience in advising such Panels and has access to considerable comparator data. Bryony would also draft the report on behalf of the Panel.
- 3.5 Following the establishment of the Panel, it is envisaged that they will meet during the first few months of 2020 before reporting to Council at a date to be set during 2020.
- 3.6 During the review process, there will be various opportunities for Members to input into the process through surveys and interviews, but any informal suggestions for items to be included in the scope can be submitted before then to the Monitoring Officer.
- 3.7 Ultimately, it is for Council to decide whether to amend its scheme in accordance with any recommendations from the Panel, and when any such amendments should be introduced.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 requires local authorities to establish an independent panel which will broadly have the function of providing the Local Authority with recommendations on its remuneration scheme and the amounts to be paid.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 5.1 Recommendations from the Panel may have budgetary implications and any such considerations will need to be assessed in consultation with the Section 151 Officer, Monitoring Officer (as budget holder for Members' allowances) and Cabinet Member.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision-making risk management guidance.

7 CLIMATE CHANGE

- 7.1 The Council may consider inviting the Panel to consider any particular provisions relating to Member travel.

8 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 None.

9 CONSULTATION

9.1 This report has been cleared by the Monitoring Officer and S151 Officer.

Contact person	Maria Lucas, Monitoring Officer
Background papers	
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

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Membership of the Bristol City Council Independent Members' Allowances Review Panel

Ronnie Alexander

Ronnie Alexander left Welsh Government in 2013 to pursue a variety of other interests, including consultancy. He is a member of the National Assembly for Wales Remuneration Board and is Independent Chair of the Standards Committee for Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. Ronnie had a civil service career spanning over 20 years and prior to that worked for a number of local authorities. He has a considerable track record of engaging with the public, professionals and politicians at all levels, to influence policy.

Graham Russell

Graham Russell is a former Head of Democratic Services with Bath and North East Somerset Council. He has written some regional guidance for Independent Remuneration Panels and officers. Graham has served on a number of similar Panels around the South West. He is currently a marriage celebrant in Bath and North East Somerset Council.

Canon Doctor John Savage

John has a wealth of experience of senior roles in both the public and private sector. They include; Chairman - Bristol Chamber of Commerce and Initiative; Chairman - Destination Bristol; Chairman - John Wesley New Room Trust; Chairman – Learning Partnership West; and Chairman – UHBT Hospitals.

Wendy Stephenson

From 2005 to 2017 Wendy was Chief Executive of Voscur, the support and development organisation for Bristol's voluntary and community sector. In this role Wendy gained a good knowledge of the workings of the local authority and the roles and responsibilities of Councillors. Wendy has participated in Bristol City Council assessment Panels, during the recruitment of senior officers, and worked with Councillors and officers in a number of different policy areas.

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