



Audit & Governance Committee

20 June 2024

Title:	Allowance of Independent persons
Report of:	Edwina Adefehinti
Lead Member:	Cllr Edna Murphy- Governance
Public Report:	Yes
Key Decision:	No
Voting Arrangements:	Majority

Recommendations:

A	The Committee is invited to consider whether both Independent persons should receive the same allowance
B	The Committee is invited to recommend to the combined authority Board to agree that both Independent Persons should receive the same allowance.

Strategic Objective(s):

The proposals within this report fit under the following strategic objective(s):

	The report improves the CPCA's corporate governance framework and helps to protect the interests of the CPCA and promote best value.
--	--

1. Purpose

1.1	The recommendations seek to ensure fairness and parity between the two independent persons.
-----	---

2. Proposal

2.1	For the Committee to consider request to give equal allowance to both independent persons
2.2	For the committee to recommend that the Combined Authority Board approve equal allowance to both independent persons.

3. Background

3.1	The Localism Act 2011 established the requirement for every principal authority to appoint one or more Independent Persons whose views must be sought and considered when dealing with allegations that
-----	---

	members have breached the Code of Conduct. The terms of office of the CPCA's current Independent Persons expire soon. The CPCA is responsible for ensuring that the requirement to have Independent Persons is complied with. The role of the Independent person has since been widened under the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015. These new regulations changed the localised disciplinary process in relation to local Authorities Head of Paid Service, the Chief Finance Officer and the Monitoring Officer Statutory Positions. In the case of any proposed disciplinary action against such a Statutory Officer, the Local Authority is required to appoint the Independent Persons who have been appointed for the purposes of the Member's Code of Conduct regime to the Independent Panel who make recommendations to the local authority regarding any decision to dismiss a statutory officer.
3.2	There has been an increase in receipt of code of conduct complaints which has necessitated more work been taken on by Gillian Holmes who is the reserve Independent Person. Therefore it would be disproportionate to continue to pay one Independent Person more than the other.
3.2	It is therefore proposed that the rate of remuneration for Combined Authority Independent Persons should be £1000 per annum for both David Pearl and Gillian Holmes, with the addition of travel and parking expenses if appropriate.

4. Appendices

4.1	None
-----	------

5. Implications

Financial Implications

5.1	The Lead and Deputy Independent Persons will now receive an allowance of £1,000 each, and shall also be entitled to claim travel for attending meetings and training events. This additional cost is not material to the Combined Authority.
-----	--

Legal Implications

6.1	Section 28 of the Localism Act 2011 requires the appointment of at least one Independent Person who may not be a member, a co-opted member or officer of the authority or of a parish council within the authority area. Neither may they be a close friend or relative of any of the above.
-----	--

Public Health Implications

7.1	
-----	--

Environmental & Climate Change Implications

8.1	
-----	--

Other Significant Implications

9.1	
-----	--

Background Papers

10.1	
------	--