



Combined Authority Board

24 July 2024

Title:	Allowance of Independent persons
Report of:	Edwina Adefehinti, Interim Head of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer
Lead Member:	Cllr Edna Murphy, Lead Member Governance
Public Report:	Yes
Key Decision:	No
Voting Arrangements:	A simple majority of voting members

Recommendations:

A	To approve changes to the allowances to ensure that both Independent Persons receive the same.
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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.
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2. Proposal

2.1	For the Board to approve changes to the allowances to ensure that both Independent Persons receive the same.
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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
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	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. Therefore, it would be fair and proportionate to ensure that both Independent Persons are paid equally.
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.
3.3	These changes were considered by the Combined Authority's Audit and Governance Committee on 20 June 2024. The committee resolved to make the recommendation to the Combined Authority Board to agree that both Independent Persons should receive the same allowance.

4. Appendices

4.1	None
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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.
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Legal Implications

5.2	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.
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Public Health Implications

5.3	None
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Environmental & Climate Change Implications

5.4	None
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Other Significant Implications

5.5	None
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Background Papers

5.6	None
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