

INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

PERSON SPECIFICATION FOR INDEPENDENT MEMBER

General

To be eligible for appointment, a person must not be disqualified from holding office as a member of the Local Authority. Accordingly, any person who is recommended for appointment will be required to confirm that he/she is not disqualified. Details of the disqualifications are set out overleaf.

The Council reserves the right to remove a discredited member from the Panel. For example a member of the panel may become discredited due to being found guilty of a criminal offence. The Council will also remove a panel member from the Panel if he/she becomes disqualified for appointment having regard to the grounds for disqualification set out below.

Selection Criteria

Prospective members should:-

1. Live in the South Lakeland District.
2. Have an interest in Local Government (training will be provided) and broader community issues.
3. Have the ability to act impartially, consider evidence with an open mind and debate issues with other panel members with a view to reaching a decision.
4. Be aged 18 or over.
5. Not be a Councillor or Co-opted Member of any Local Authority [including Town/Parish Councils] for which the IRP makes recommendations.
6. Not be directly related to, or a close friend of, a South Lakeland District Councillor or Officer of the Council.
7. Not be employed by South Lakeland District Council or any district council, county council, unitary council, national park authority or fire and rescue authority or any other public authority with members (other than a Parish/Town Council) whose allowances are governed by the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) England Regulations 2003 within the County of Cumbria. For the avoidance of doubt, this prohibition does not apply to employees of Parish/Town Councils.
8. Not be a member of any political party, or be politically active to the extent that a reasonable person would conclude that this activity would influence your judgment.
9. Not have committed to a position regarding Member allowances and/or expenses publically to the extent that a reasonable person would conclude that this activity would influence your judgment.
10. Be able to analyse information, ask pertinent questions and maintain confidentiality.
11. Be able to commit to a 4 year term of office with a limit of up to two consecutive terms. In exceptional circumstances, a minimum 2 year term may be considered. Previous members of the IRP may reapply after a period of 4 years or more has elapsed since they last served on the Panel. Previous members who did not complete a previous 4 year term may reapply at any time providing that the initial term does not exceed the term remaining on that unexpired 4 year period.

Knowledge, Skills & Experience

Essential ("E") /Desirable ("D")

Ability to

- Read and assess information and identify key points/issues E
- Listen to information and identify key points and issues E
- Ask questions in order to obtain information and open up discussion E
- Analyse information and use it to form opinions and conclusions E
- Work as part of a team E
- Communicate effectively and with a wide range of people E
- Ability to consider detailed information about the roles of councillors the operation of the Authority and the discharge of its functions and other relevant information from other authorities and independent remuneration panels E

Understanding of

- Local Government D
- The role and work of a District Council (including a knowledge of the decision making process) D
- The roles of councillors D
- The regulations and guidance which apply to members' allowances D
- The importance of being seen to be working independently of the Council E

DISQUALIFICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

Summary of Sections 80 and 81 of the Local Government Act 1972

1. A person shall be disqualified from being appointed if he/she:-
 - a) Holds any paid office or employment with the Authority;
 - b) Is a person who has been adjudged bankrupt or made a composition or arrangement with his/her creditors;
 - c) Has, within five years from the day of his/her appointment, been convicted of any offence and had passed upon him/her a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of not less than three months without the option of a fine;
 - d) Has been convicted of a corrupt or illegal practice under Part III of the Representation of the People Act 1983;
 - e) Is disqualified for membership for a specified period by order of the Court because of his/her involvement in expenditure contrary to law, and
 - f) Is disqualified from membership for five years following an Auditor's certificate that a loss or deficiency has been caused by his/her wilful misconduct while a member of a Local Authority.
2. The disqualification attaching to a person by reason of having been adjudged bankrupt ceases:
 - a) On his/her discharge from bankruptcy unless the bankruptcy order made against the person is previously annulled; and
 - b) If the bankruptcy order is so annulled, on the date of the annulment.
3. The disqualification attaching to a person by reason of his/her having made a composition or arrangement him/her ceases:-
 - a) On the date on which payment is completed if he/she pays the debt in full; or
 - b) In any case, on the expiration of five years from the date on which the terms of the deed of composition or arrangement are fulfilled.