

**Independent Remuneration Panel**  
**Notes of Meeting with The Leader and Deputy Leader of Wyre Council**  
**22 November 2023 at 17:00 – Committee Room 2 Wyre Civic Centre**

**Present:** Reverend John Squires, Professor Darren Ansell (Independent Remuneration Panel Members); Councillor Michael Vincent (Leader of the Council), Councillor Roger Berry (Deputy Leader of the Council)

**Notes of Meeting:** As a result of Cllrs Vincent and Berry being appointed to their respective posts of Leader and Deputy Leader, it was felt the Independent Remuneration Panel should hold a discussion with them about their respective roles and the current structure of the Council.

It was noted that the role of the Deputy Leader was more involved with supporting the Leader and representing the Council at outside meetings aimed at securing additional resources for the Council. In looking at the balance of responsibilities between the respective Portfolio Holders, it was recognised that it was unlikely that any future Deputy Leader would not be a Portfolio Holder and therefore the role of Deputy Leader were in addition to those of a Portfolio Holder Duties.

It was also noted that the functions of the Audit Committee and the Standards Committee had now been merged into one committee and that the Independent Remuneration Panel would need to make a recommendation to the Council on the relevant allowance Chairman of the merged committee.

Discussion were also held on the roles of the two Lead Members (who are paid an allowance) and the three Champions (who did not receive an allowance). It was basically agreed that there was very little difference in their respective roles and therefor the Independent Remuneration Panel would look at this issue when making recommendations to Council.

Looking at the roles of the various Portfolio Holders, it was felt that some additional responsibilities did fall on the Planning Chairman and this is something that may need to be addressed at the next review.

Issues surrounding the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's Allowance was discussed, particularly surrounding the fact that the Allowance was taxable and that there was now a personal cost to those who are elected Mayor/Deputy Mayor. It was noted that the Mayoral Allowance had not been increased in recent years. The panel were aware that a review was underway regarding the functions of the Mayoralty, but that initially, the Independent Remuneration Panel were mindful to recommend to the Council that the Mayoral Allowances should be increased by the rate of inflation applicable to Members' Allowances.

Finally, the future impact of the Lancashire Combined Authority was discussed and it was recognised that as this evolved this is something the Independent Remuneration Panel will need to address in future years.

The meeting closed at 17:35.