

**MEMBERSHIP OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES PANEL**

Report of the County Secretary

**1. Background**

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) Regulations 2003 require the Council to make a scheme for Members' Allowances and establish and maintain an independent panel to make recommendations to the Council about the scheme. The Council has a duty to have regard to the panel's advice before making (or subsequently amending) the scheme.

The County Council in November 2001 set up a panel of five, to serve until May 2005, comprising:

Don Latham (Chairman), Colin Couch, Greg Grant, Margaret Jarvis and David Thomas.

**2. Information**

In March of this year the Chairman, Don Latham, resigned from the Panel, following a period of poor health.

A second member, Colin Couch, resigned on 11 June having been elected as a District Councillor, which makes him ineligible to serve on the Panel.

The Council is invited to:

- appoint a Chairman of the Panel to replace Don Latham
- agree a process (which must include a public advertisement) for recruiting members to fill the two vacancies now existing
- consider the tenure of appointments beyond May 2005.

Greg Grant and Margaret Jarvis have indicated that they will support David Thomas as Chairman.

The Council may wish to authorise the three remaining members of the Panel to select and co-opt two new members following a public advertisement.