

B: REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL ON MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

Introduction

1. This report presents the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances.

Background

2. The statutory framework for members' allowances includes the following requirements:-
 - Each local authority is required to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel with the function of providing the local authority with advice on its scheme and the amounts to be paid. Local authorities must have regard to this advice.
 - Local authorities must, before the beginning of each year, make a scheme for the payment of a basic allowance for the year. The basic allowance must be payable to all members.
 - The scheme may include provision for the payment of special responsibility allowances, travel and subsistence allowances, a dependants' carers' allowance, and co-optees' allowance. The scheme may also make provision for pensions.
 - The approval of a members' allowances scheme has to be determined by the full Council and cannot be delegated to the Cabinet or a committee.
 - A scheme for members' allowances may be amended at any time but may only be revoked at the end of the year, i.e. 31 March. A further scheme must be available to replace the revoked scheme.
3. The Independent Remuneration Panel has recently met and its recommendations are set out in the Report which is attached as Appendix 3 to this report.

Resources Implications

4. The proposals of the Independent Remuneration Panel, after taking into account other savings that have been introduced, result in an overall net saving, taking into account the recommendations of the of approximately £235,000 per annum in the cost of democracy.

Decision of the Constitution Committee

5. The Constitution Committee at its meeting on 15th September noted the report of the Independent Panel and its recommendations is set out in the motion below:-

(Motion to be moved:-

- a) That all Members of the County Council be required to prepare and submit an Annual Report for publication on the County Council's website by June 2018;
- b) That Group Leaders and Group Whips be responsible for ensuring that all Members of their Groups complete and submit an Annual Report; (The Panel intends to reconvene in the autumn of 2018 to review the outcome of this recommendation.)
- c) That the Panel recommends to Council that the Basic Allowance for all Members be set at a level of £10,691 with effect from 1st October 2017;
- d) That a Special Responsibility Allowance should be payable to the Deputy Chairmen of Scrutiny Committees and the Deputy Chairman of the Development Control and Regulatory Board and that the level be set at £2,000 per annum with effect from 1st October 2017;
- e) That allowances be payable to the Group Whips with effect from 1st March 2018 at the following rates, £59.00 per member, and that it be noted that the allowance level will be reviewed at the Panel's next meeting:-

Conservative Group	£2,124.00
Labour Group	£354.00
Liberal Democrat Group	£767.00;

- f) That the Opposition Group Leader allowances be calculated at a level of £684.00 per member with effect from 1st October 2017:-

Liberal Democrat Group Leader	£8, 892
Labour Group Leader	£4,104;

- g) That a Member in receipt of more than one Special Responsibility Allowance, the Member should be able to claim all allowances in full;**
- h) That Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances be increased on an annual basis, from 1st April 2018, for a four year period in line with the Local Government Employee Pay Award;**
- i) That the current levels of Travel and Subsistence allowances remain unchanged.)**

15th September

**Mr N. J. Rushton
CHAIRMAN**

Background Papers

Report of the Independent Panel – see Appendix 1 attached.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Report of Independent Remuneration Panel
Appendix 2 – Draft Members' Allowances Scheme.

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