

REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

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.
 - 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 to review the submission of Annual Reports by members and the Group Whip Allowance. Its recommendations are set out in the Report which is attached as Appendix 2 to this report.

Decision of the Constitution Committee

4. The Constitution Committee at its meeting on 13 November noted the report of the Independent Panel and its recommendations is set out in the motion below:-

(Motion to be moved:-

- a) That those Members who submitted an Annual Report be thanked for doing so.**
- b) That those Members who have not submitted an Annual Report for the municipal year 2017/18 do so at the earliest opportunity.**

- c) That all Members of the County Council be required to prepare and submit a second Annual Report for publication on the County Council's website by June 2019 and it be noted that the Panel intends to reconvene in the autumn of 2019 to review the outcome of this recommendation.
- d) That Group Leaders and Whips, in particular the Conservative and Labour Group Leaders and Whips, be thanked for their hard work in ensuring that all Members of their Group submitted an Annual Report.
- e) That Group Leaders and Group Whips be reminded of their responsibility for ensuring that all Members of their Groups complete and submit a second Annual Report.
- f) That the allowance payable to Group Whips continues to be paid at the current rate of £60.20 per Member.
- g) That it be noted that the Panel will review the Group Whips allowance at its next meeting (Autumn 2019)).

13th November 2018

Mr N. J. Rushton
CHAIRMAN

Background Papers

Report of the Independent Panel – see Appendix 2 attached.

Appendices

Appendix 2 – Report of Independent Remuneration Panel