

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE – 3 MARCH 2008

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL ON MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to enable the Committee to consider the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances and invite the Committee to make recommendations to the County Council on proposals for a new scheme of allowances in the light of the contents of that report.

The Panel met on 21 February 2008. Consequently its report is currently being prepared and will be circulated to members as soon as possible.

Background

2. The statutory framework for members' allowances which 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. 31st March. A further scheme must be available to replace the revoked scheme.
3. The Independent Panel has been called together to undertake this year's annual review and its report will be circulated as soon as possible.

Resources Implications

4. The Director of Resources has been consulted on this report and any comments will be reported to the meeting.

Equal Opportunities Implications

5. The scheme incorporates a Carers and Dependants Carers' Allowance.

Recommendation

6. The Committee is asked to determine what recommendations it wishes to put forward to the County Council in response to the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances.

Background Papers

None.

Circulation Under Sensitive Issues Procedure

None.

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