



CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE – 9 NOVEMBER 2009

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SPECIAL REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL ON MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to present a special 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.

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. At its meeting on 8 July 2009 the County Council considered and approved a revised structure for Overview and Scrutiny Bodies. The Council also agreed at that meeting to ask the Independent Remuneration Panel to put forward recommended changes to the Members' Allowances Scheme to reflect the new structure and the new composition of the Council. The Panel has now completed this work and its conclusions and recommendations are set out in a Special Report which is attached as Appendix A to this report.

Resources Implications

4. The proposals of the Independent Remuneration Panel can be met from the provision within the 2009/10 budget for Members' expenses and support.
5. The Director of Corporate Resources has been consulted on this report.

Equal Opportunities Implications

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

Recommendation

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

Background Papers

Special Report of the Independent Panel – see Appendix A attached.

Circulation Under Sensitive Issues Procedure

None.

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