

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE – 1ST SEPTEMBER, 2003

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES 2002/2003

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the action taken to publicise the level of payments on members' allowances for 2002/2003.

Background

2. Under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 the County Council is required to publish details of its allowances scheme and payments made under it "as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of the year." This has been a requirement for some years and it has been the County Council's practice to publish the schedule of payments with the minutes of the relevant committee (previously the Appointments and Members' Services Subcommittee – now the Constitution Committee). Copies of the schedule are normally circulated mid June – first to relevant members of the Council and a few days later to the media.
3. To avoid unreasonable delay, following consultation with the Group Leaders, arrangements were made for details to be circulated to members and the media, rather than to wait until the Constitution Committee was able to meet to approve publication. A letter was therefore sent to elected members with the attached schedule on the 21st July, and details were sent to the media on 23rd July.

Recommendations

4. That the action taken by the Chief Executive to publicise the level of payments on members' allowances in 2002/03 be noted and that the details be published with the minutes of this meeting in accordance with the provisions of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

Circulation under Sensitive Issues Procedure.

None.

Background Papers

None.

Officer to Contact

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