

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE – 11 MARCH 2004

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL ON
MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES**

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to present 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.

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 a copy of its report is attached as Appendix A.

Resources Implications

4. The increase proposed by the Independent Remuneration Panel can be met from the provision within the 2004/05 budget for general items.
5. The Director of 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 report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances.

Background Papers

Report of the Independent Panel – see Appendix A attached.

Circulation Under Sensitive Issues Procedure

None.

Officer to Contact

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