



Committee and date

Council

15 December 2011

Item

7

Public

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

Responsible Officer Richard Thomas

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1.0 Summary

1.1 This report brings to Members' attention the recommendations of the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) on specific Special Responsibility Allowances following the structural changes introduced at the Annual Meeting on 12 May 2011.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Council is requested to consider and approve, with or without amendment, the Independent Remuneration Panel's recommendations on the proposed level of allowances for the remainder of the 2011/12 financial year.

REPORT

3.0 Background

3.1 The IRP has reviewed the Members' Allowances Scheme prepared in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, following consideration of representations received from individual members and after discussions with the Group Leaders and the Council's Chief Executive.

3.2 The report addresses the structural changes regarding the appointment of Deputy Portfolio Holders and the decision not to re-appoint the Member Champions and other miscellaneous matters on which representations were received.

- 3.3 Having taken account of all relevant considerations and documents, as well as comparable arrangements in similar authorities, the IRP recommends that:-
- (a) Unless specifically referred to below, the Basic, Special Responsibility and other Allowances remain unchanged for the remainder of 2011/12.
 - (b) The Special Responsibility Allowance for the Deputy Portfolio Holders be 0.25 x the Basic Allowance which, after the 5% reduction introduced on 1 April 2011 will result in an annual payment of £2,878.50 and that this be backdated to 12 May 2011.
 - (c) The Special Responsibility Allowance of the three Area Planning Committee Chairs be reduced from 0.75 to 0.5 of the Basic Allowance set at 1 April 2010 which, when reduced by the 5% referred to in (b) above, will result in an annual allowance of £5,757 and that such reduction take effect on 1 January 2012.
 - (d) The Special Responsibility Allowance for the Vice-Chairs of the three Area Planning Committees and the Vice-Chair of the Strategic Licensing Committee be set at 0.125 of the Basic Allowance set at 1 April 2010 which, when reduced by the 5% referred to in (b) above, will result in an annual payment of £1,439.30 and that these allowances be backdated to 12 May 2011.
 - (e) The Special Responsibility Allowance of the Chair of the Audit Committee be increased from 0.25 to 0.5 of the Basic Allowance set at 1 April 2010, which when reduced by the 5% referred to in (b) above will result in an annual payment of £5,757 and this be backdated to 12 May 2011.
 - (f) The rules relating to the claiming of travel allowances for approved duties be amended in the manner suggested in paragraphs 5.18 of the Panel's report.
 - (g) The mileage rate paid to members for the use of a bicycle be reduced from the present 46p per mile to 40p per mile, being the same as the current mileage rate payable in respect of motor vehicles, with effect from 1 January 2012.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

As listed in the IRP Report

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Keith Barrow

Local Member

All

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances

Appendix 2 – Original Council report on appointments with associated appendix

Appendix 3 – Proposed Deputy Portfolio Holder Job description and areas of responsibilities

Appendix 4 – Special Responsibility Allowances 1 April 2011 – 12 May 2011

Appendix 5 – Special Responsibility Allowances IRP recommendations