



Committee and date
Council
10 December 2009

Item No
7
Public

REMUNERATION PANEL REPORT

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Summary

This report incorporates the recommendations of the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) on the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2010/11 financial year.

Recommendations

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 2010/11 financial year.

Report

1. Background

- 1.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel has reviewed the Members' Allowances Scheme prepared in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, following contact with all group leaders.
- 1.2 The report addresses the statutory requirement to present recommendations on Basic, Special Responsibility and Dependent Carers' allowances, as well as those for travelling expenses and subsistence.

- 1.3 The report and recommendations take full account of the key documents relating to the Council's organisational structure, being the Blueprint Design for One Council for Shropshire, the Council's Political Structure and the Member Roles and Responsibilities reports.
- 1.4 Having taken account of these and other relevant publications and comparable arrangements in similar authorities, all of which are referred to in Appendix 2 to its report, the Panel recommends:-
- A Basic Allowance of £12,120 for all unitary councillors, indexed to the NJC Staffs annual salary award.
 - That all Special Responsibility Allowances are based on multiples of the Basic Allowance, indexed as above.
 - The retention of the principle that all members receive only one Special Responsibility Allowance.
 - A Special Responsibility Allowance which is twice the level of the Basic Allowance for the Leader of the Council.
 - A Special Responsibility Allowance which is 1.25 x the Basic Allowance for the Deputy Leaders.
 - A Special Responsibility Allowance which is equivalent to the Basic Allowance for the remaining seven Portfolio Holders and the five Scrutiny Panel Chairs.
 - A Special Responsibility Allowance which is 0.75 x the Basic Allowance for the Speaker and Chairman of the Council and the Chairmen of the Strategic and Area Planning Committees.
 - A Special Responsibility Allowance which is 0.25 x the Basic Allowance for the Chairs of the Strategic and Area Licensing Committees.
 - A Special Responsibility Allowance for each leader of a political group with a membership of 10% of the total membership of the Council of 0.5 x the Basic Allowance, assuming that they are not already in receipt of a greater allowance.
 - A Special Responsibility Allowance of 0.25 x the Basic Allowance for the Chairs of the Audit and Pensions Committees.
 - A Special Responsibility Allowance of 0.125 x the Basic Allowance for Champions.
 - A Special Responsibility Allowances of 0.25 and 0.125 x the Basic Allowance, respectively, for the Independent Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Standards Committee.

- That there be no designated Opposition Leader's Allowance.
- That the allowance for overnight stays in London be amended as stated in paragraph 6.36 of the Panel's report with immediate effect.
- That there be no change to the other arrangements for overnight stays in the provinces or to the Subsistence Allowances at this time, but the position be reviewed again during 2010.

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

Human Rights Act Appraisal

There is nothing in this report or its recommendations which conflicts with any of the articles under the Human Rights Act.

Environmental Appraisal

N/A

Risk Management Appraisal

It is necessary for the recommendations relating to Members' allowances to be agreed prior to 1 April 2010.

Community / Consultations Appraisal

Details of the Panel's recommendation will be advertised in the local press.

Cabinet Member

Keith Barrow

Local Member

All

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel