

REPORT OF THE  
Members Allowances Scheme Panel  
PART I

**127. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2011/2012**

1. The legislative framework governing the payment of Members Allowances is set out in the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 ("the Members' Allowances Regulations").

2. Under the provisions of the Members' Allowances Regulations, the County Council is required each year to make a Members' Allowances Scheme. The Members' Allowances Scheme needs to make provision for payment of Basic Allowances, Special Responsibility Allowances ("SRAs"), Dependents' Carers Allowances, and Travelling and Subsistence Allowances.

3. By virtue of the Members' Allowances Regulations, before the County Council can make or amend a Members' Allowances Scheme, it is required to have regard to recommendations made in relation to it by an Independent Remuneration Panel ("IRP"). In this regard, the IRP met on 10 December 2010.

4. The Members' Allowances Panel met on 25 January 2011 to consider the recommendations of the IRP, and to make recommendations to the County Council in respect of the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2011/2012.

5. This report contains a summary of the meeting of the Members' Allowances Panel, and the recommendations of the Members' Allowances Panel Meeting.

**Members Allowances Scheme 2011/2012**

6. The Panel considered the report of the Chief Executive (item 5 in the Minute Book) regarding the Members' Allowances Scheme 2011/2012.

7. The Head of Governance advised that by virtue of the statutory framework of the Members Allowances Regulations, before the County Council can make or amend a Members' Allowances Scheme, it was required to have regard to any recommendations made in relation to it by an Independent Remuneration Panel. In this regard, the Members' Allowances Panel had, as part of the Chief Executive's Report, the Minutes of the IRP meeting of 10 December 2010 (Appendix A to the Report), together with the recommendations of the IRP.

**Recommendations of the Independent Remuneration**

8. The recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the Members' Allowances Scheme 2011/2012 are set out below, together with the Members' Allowances Panel's views and conclusions on each of them.

## 8.1 **Basic Allowances and Special Responsibility Allowances**

### **Recommendation of IRP**

That Basic Allowances and SRAs be frozen at existing rates from 1 April 2011.

### **Comment of Members' Allowances Panel**

The Members' Allowances Panel supported the IRP recommendation for no increase in Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances from 1 April 2011.

## 8.2 **Independent Appeal Panel Members Motor Vehicle Allowance**

### **Recommendation of IRP**

That the Independent Appeal Panel Members Motor Vehicle Allowance (currently 57.8p per mile) be frozen for 2011/2012, but that this be investigated further by the IRP during the next 12 months.

### **Comment of Members' Allowances Panel**

Members of the IRP had indicated that they felt it was unclear as to why the Motor Vehicle Allowance for Independent Appeal Panel Members was paid at a different rate to the general Motor Vehicle Allowance for Members, indicating that they intended to look at this in the course of their forthcoming work over the next 12 months. The Members' Allowances Panel supported the IRP recommendation.

## 8.3 **Members' Travel Allowances**

### **Recommendation of IRP**

That all mileage rates, (with the exception of the Independent Appeal Panel Members Motor Vehicle Allowance referred to above) be aligned to HMRC approved levels (currently 20p for bicycles, 24p for motorcycles and 40p for the first 10,000 miles, and 25p thereafter for motor vehicles other than motorcycles).

### **Comment of Members Allowances Panel**

Whilst supporting this recommendation, the Members' Allowances Scheme Panel took into account a contrary view expressed at the Meeting, that the 40p per mile HMRC approved Motor Vehicle Rate did not represent the true cost to Members of travel on behalf of the County Council. Members of the Panel considered that the issues involved would benefit from an investigation by the Policy and Resources Select Committee.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- (a) That Basic Allowances and SRAs be frozen at existing rates from 1 April 2011.
- (b) That the Independent Appeal Panel Members Motor Vehicle Allowance (currently 57.8p per mile) be frozen for 2011/2012, but that this be investigated further by the IRP during the next 12 months.
- (c) That all Members' travel allowances, with the exception of the Independent Appeal Panel Members Motor Vehicle Allowance be aligned to HMRC approved levels (currently 20p per mile for bicycles, 24p per mile for motorcycles, and 40p per mile for the first 10,000 miles and 25p per mile thereafter for motor car vehicles).
- (d) That, subject to the changes recommended at (c) above in respect of travel allowances a Members' Allowances Scheme be approved for 2011/2012 with the existing 2010/2011 rates of Members' Allowances.
- (e) That the Policy and Resources Select Committee be asked to undertake a review of the Members Motor Vehicle Allowance to establish the true and marginal cost to Members of their travel on behalf of the County Council. The outcome of this investigation to be reported back to the Members' Allowances Scheme Panel and the County Council.