

INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL REPORT

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 As requested by Council on 27 February 2007, this report contains the recommendations from the re-convened Independent Remuneration Panel regarding Members' allowances for 2007/08 based on the possible introduction of a new political decision making structure containing an Executive Board, three Area Committees and the role of Member Champion.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 require that each Council sets up an Independent Remuneration Panel to make recommendations about the level of allowances for Members.
- 2.2 The Council has to have regard to the advice of the Panel, except in the area of pensionable allowance where the view of the Panel is binding if it does not recommend implementation. The Panel has not recommended that any allowances should be pensionable.

3 DISCUSSION AND PROPOSALS

- 3.1 The report of the re-convened Independent Remuneration Panel is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 In summary, the main recommendations from the Panel are as follows:-
- All Executive Board Members (including Area Committee Chairmen) to receive the existing Committee Chairman's allowance plus an additional payment of £1,000 (see paragraph 3.1 in Appendix 1).
 - That the existing Sub-Committee Chairman's allowance should only be payable if the Chairman of the Sub-Committee is not the Executive Board Member with overall responsibility for the area of work (paragraph 3.1 of Appendix 1).
 - The Review Committee Chairman's special responsibility allowance be set at an equivalent rate to that of an Executive Board Member (paragraph 3.2 of Appendix 1).
 - A Member Champion's allowance be set at 10% of the basic allowance (paragraph 3.3 of Appendix 1).
 - The allowance for the Chairman of the Standards Committee should be paid to whoever takes on the role of Chairman (paragraph 3.4 of Appendix 1).
- 3.3 All other allowances to remain in place as agreed by the Council on 27 February 2007.

4 RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 To minimise reputational risk the Council needs to have regard to the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 These proposals would amount to a net additional cost of £18,700 for Members' allowances in 2007/08. This sum can be met from within the overall budget strategy for 2007/08.

6 RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 It is proposed that the Council **RESOLVES** to adopt the remuneration scheme proposed by the Independent Remuneration Panel for 2007/08 as set out in this report.

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Background Papers:-

Notes of meetings of Independent Remuneration Panel held on 2 and 12 April 2007.

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