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## REPORT OF THE POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE – 7 DECEMBER 2004

### 1 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

- 1.1 This item of business was referred by the Policy and Finance Committee on 7 December to Council with a recommendation relating to the content of the Members' Allowance Scheme. A copy of the officer's report to the Committee is attached at Appendix 1.
- 1.2 The Committee noted that the proposed basic allowance would align with the policy objective of the Remuneration Panel that this is eventually brought up to the Essex average. It was also noted that the Panel wished to emphasise the view that a carer's allowance should be introduced given its potential social inclusion value in providing an attraction to individuals that, but for the non-existence of such an allowance, may come forward to be Councillors. The Panel had indicated that they would continue to recommend a carer's allowance.
- 1.3 With regard to payment for mileage, it was noted that each Member would need to ensure that they had appropriate vehicle insurance cover and that, should Members wish to introduce an allowance in any area that is higher than that recommended by the Panel, this would need to be justified.
- 1.4 It was also noted that: -
- The proposed bicycle allowance was based on guidelines from the Inland Revenue.
  - The introduction of a carer's allowance should be seen in the context of the Member situation, rather than the situation of officers (who are paid employees). There are no specific guidelines for such an allowance at the moment, but these could be developed in consultation with other Local Authorities where such an allowance is paid.
- 1.5 During debate, reference was made to the possible advantage of introducing a carer's allowance in terms of the Council being able to attract potential Councillors from a broad age range. Reference was also made to the fact that such an allowance was not made available by a number of organisations.
- 1.6 It is proposed that Council **RESOLVES**
- That the Members' Allowance Scheme comprise: -
- A Basic Allowance of £3,000.
  - The existing cascade system and percentage allocations of Special Responsibility Allowances.

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- The maintenance of a co-optees' allowance at £300 per annum.
  - The payment of travel and subsistence at the same rate as for officers as at 1 April 2005, subject to a maximum of 40p per mile and a passenger allowance of 5p per passenger per mile being introduced. In addition, new allowances of 24p per mile for a motorcycle and 20p per mile for a bicycle.
  - That Allowances should not be pensionable.
  - That Index-Linking should not be applicable.

## **2 LONDON SOUTHEND AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE – MEMBERSHIP**

2.1 This item of business was referred by the Policy and Finance Committee on 7 December to Council with a recommendation that membership of the London Southend Airport Consultative Committee be increased from one to three Members. A copy of the officer's report to the Committee is attached at Appendix 2.

2.2 It is proposed that Council **RESOLVES**

That membership of the London Southend Airport Consultative Committee be increased from one to three Members, the additional two appointees to be Councillors K H Hudson and D G Stansby for the remainder of this Municipal Year. (HAMS)

Sarah Fowler

Head of Administrative and Member Services

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### **Background Papers: -**

None

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