

MEMBERS ALLOWANCES – REPORT OF THE REMUNERATION PANEL

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report presents for Members' consideration the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members Allowances.
- 1.2. Members now need to consider the report and determine a view on the level of allowances to be payable under the new Council structure. It is suggested that any allowances adopted now as a result of the Panel's recommendations continue for the duration of 2002/3.

2 REPORT OF THE PANEL

- 2.1. It is now a statutory requirement for Councils to consider the recommendations of an independent remuneration panel prior to setting the level of Members Allowances whenever a change is considered.
- 2.2. Attached is a detailed report of Rochford's Independent Remuneration Panel on Members Allowances. A summary of the main recommendations is set out below:-

Basic Allowance

Lump sum of £122 per month payable to all Members. In view of budget constraints the Panel recommends a phased introduction starting at £100 per month.

Discretionary Basic Allowance

Lump sum to a maximum of 50% of the basic allowance. Details of circumstances of payment contained in paragraphs 4.6-4.8 of the Panel's report.

Special Responsibility Allowances

Chairman of Council – 100% of basic allowance plus a maximum of an additional 100% clothing allowance payable on production of invoice.

Vice Chairman of Council - 50% of basic allowance plus Chairman's allowance when Chairman is unavailable for three weeks in any month.

Group Leaders – 60% of basic allowance

Committee Chairman – 40% of basic allowance.

Carers Allowance

Discretionary allowance to pay for care of child under 13 years or dependent adult. Maximum payment of 5 hours per month at a current rate of £3.25 per hour.

Travel

Basic allowance of £100 per annum for urban wards. Higher allowance of £200 per annum in rural wards. Additional travel payable at 40p per mile within district and public transport rates outside District. Details of reasons for payment in paragraph 6.4 of the Panel's report.

Subsistence Allowances

No change

Other Issues

The Panel believes there should be minimum levels of attendance in order to be able to claim the allowances. There should also be a commitment to attend Member training

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. The total cost of the package cannot be fully quantified owing to the discretionary element of basic allowance and travelling allowances. There will also be a demand element in respect of carers allowances.
- 3.2. The estimated cost of the package for 39 Members is therefore:-

	Recommended 2002/3 £	Maximum £
Basic allowance	46,800	57,096
Discretionary – contingency	3,000	3,660
Special responsibility:		
Group Leaders	2,880	3,514
Committee Chairman	4,320	5,270
Carers allowance, say	1,000	1,000
Chairman	2,400	2,928
Vice Chairman	<u>600</u>	<u>732</u>
Total allowances	61,000	74,200
Travel, say	<u>10,100</u>	<u>10,100</u>
Total	<u>71,100</u>	<u>84,300</u>
Draft estimate 2002/3		
Allowances	65,000	65,000

Travel	<u>6,700</u>	<u>6,700</u>
	71,700	71,700
Additional budget requirement	NIL	12,600

- 3.3. In determining the level of allowances, Members need to consider the views of the Independent Remuneration Panel, but can then set the allowances at any level they deem appropriate. With regard to discretionary allowances, Members can choose whether or not to implement them either partially or in their entirety.

4 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Sub-Committee **RECOMMENDS**

The scheme of Members Allowances to take effect from 1 March 2002 to 31 March 2003.

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