

## **MEMBERS ALLOWANCES 2001/02**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek agreement to the level of Members Allowances to be paid for the financial year 2001/02. Agreement is also sought to the setting up of a panel to determine a new system of Members Allowances in order to comply with the requirements of the new political structure.

### **2 EXISTING SYSTEM**

- 2.1. The existing system comprises of special responsibility allowances, basic allowance and attendance allowances.
- 2.2. On the assumption that Members will wish to continue with the current system a list of the allowances is set out below, showing current level of fees and a proposed level with an increase of 3%. This level of increase has already been allowed for in the 2001/02 budget.

<b>Allowance</b>	<b>2000/01</b>	<b>2001/02</b>
	£ p per month	£ p per month
A. Special Responsibility Allowances:		
Group Leaders	36.43	37.52
Per additional Party Member	2.12	2.18
Committee Chairmen	44.61	45.95
B. Basic Allowance	54.65	56.29
C. Attendance Allowance	12.89 per meeting	13.27per meeting

### **3 FUTURE REQUIREMENTS**

- 3.1. From the commencement of the new political structure the payment of attendance allowances will no longer be allowed. There will only be responsibility and basic allowances . Authorities are also required to set up an independent review body in order to determine an appropriate level of payment. The authority is not bound by the findings of the review body. Guidance has been promised and is still awaited from DETR on Members' Allowances.

- 3.2. Information received from other local authorities indicates that the cost of this type of exercise will be in the region of £4,000. This is based on a panel consisting of 4 members and a facilitator.
- 3.3. Should Members wish to move towards the new system now, that could be achieved by utilising the amount of money used to pay attendance allowances and redistributing the sum in the form of basic allowance. It would also be necessary to determine an amount in respect of Special Responsibilities for Chairmen of Sub Committees. If this action were taken a possible scheme is set out in the table below. No attendance allowance would be paid. This does have administrative advantages and Members would only need to make monthly claims for travel and subsistence.

<b>Allowance</b>	<b>Possible Scheme</b>
	£ p per month
A. Special Responsibility Allowances:	
Group Leaders	37.52
Per additional Party Member	2.18
Committee Chairmen	45.95
Sub Committee Chairman	6.68
B. Basic Allowance	94.86

#### **4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1. The financial implications set out in the above report in respect of payment of allowances may be met from the 2001/02 budget. Should Members wish to adopt the option of abolishing attendance allowances there will be some savings in administrative procedures.
- 4.2. The costs of the review panel may be met from the best value consultation budget. There will be some staff resource in carrying out this exercise.

#### **5 RECOMMENDATION**

- 5.1. It is proposed that this Sub Committee **RECOMMENDS:**
- 1 The type and amount of Members Allowances to be paid in 2001/02.
  - 2 Officers to present a report on the composition and levels of reimbursement with a view to setting up an Independent Review Panel to determine the level of allowances for 2002/03.

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**Background Papers:**

None.

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