

REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME

MONDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2010

DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Monday, 25 October 2010. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Di Johnson.

1. REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

1. That no change be made to the Basic Allowance.
2. That no change be made to the Special Responsibility Allowance of the Leader.
3. That no change be made to the Special Responsibility Allowance of the Deputy Leader(and Cabinet Executive)
4. That no change be made to the Special Responsibility Allowance of the Leaders of Opposition (Minority)Groups.
5. That the Special Responsibility Allowance of the Deputy Leaders of Minority Groups be abolished.
6. That no change be made to the Special Responsibility Allowance of the Members of Cabinet Executive(excluding the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council).
7. That the Special Responsibility Allowance of the Chairman of Standards Committee be restricted to the £200 honorarium payment if four or fewer meetings are held within the year or £50 per meeting if more than four meetings are held within the year.
8. That the Special Responsibility Allowance of the Chairman of Scrutiny Commission be abolished.
9. That the Special Responsibility Allowance of Scrutiny Commissioners remain unchanged but to include all 3 Commissioners.
10. That the Special Responsibility Allowance of the Chairman of

Development Control be reduced to £1,063.56

11. That the Special Responsibility Allowance of the Vice-Chairman of Development Control Committee be abolished.
12. That the £25.00 for the attendance of a Development Control site visit be reinstated for Members of the Development Control Committee who participate fully in the site visit.
13. That the Dependants' Carers' Allowance remain unchanged.
14. That, Part 6, point 4 (Members Allowances Travel and Subsistence Allowance) of the Constitution be updated to include "Members may only claim Travel Allowances from their normal place of residence to a meeting and not from their place of work to a meeting.
15. That, Part 6, point 4 (Members Allowances – Travel and Subsistence Allowance) of the Constitution be amended to read "In cases where no other form of public transport is available or in cases of urgency, Members may travel by taxi and they will be reimbursed the actual fare upon production of a valid receipt.
16. That the Subsistence Allowance continue in line with the NJC Rates.

Reasons for Recommendations:

Recommendations – 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6:

After taking into consideration the following factors the Panel deemed that the Basic Allowance, the Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader of the Council and the Leaders of the Opposition (Minority) Groups and Members of the Cabinet Executive (excluding the Leader and Deputy Leader) of the Council's Special Responsibility Allowance was set at the appropriate level having considered evidence submitted to the Panel including appendices C, F and G of the Democratic Services Manager's report and the letters from the Councillors.

Recommendation 5:

The Panel deemed that the Special Responsibility Allowance paid to the Deputy Leaders (Minority) Group was inappropriate as few other Council's paid the allowance, and it is predominantly a political role rather than a Council one.

Recommendations 7 to 11:

After considering the workload responsibility and Appendix C of the

report the Panel felt it was appropriate to alter these allowances.

Recommendation 12:

The Panel felt that as the site visits took place during the afternoon on top of the Development Control Committee meetings it was appropriate for Members who attended and fully participated in the visit should be remunerated for this time.

Recommendation 13 to 16 inclusive:

It is appropriate for the Panel to review these aspects of the scheme on a regular basis .