

To Members of the Independent Remuneration Panel

Mr J.C. Dodd

Dr B.W. Kiernan

Mr B. North

Dear Councillor,

A meeting of the **INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL** will be held in the Gloucester Room, Council Offices, Narborough, Leicester at these offices on **TUESDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2006** at **4.30 p.m.** for the transaction of the following business and your attendance is requested.

Yours faithfully

Kris Johnston
Head of Administration and Legal Services

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes (Pages 1 - 2)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2006 (enclosed).

3. Members Allowances (Pages 3 - 12)

To consider the report of the Democratic Services Manager (enclosed)



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Agenda Item 2

INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

Minutes of a meeting held at the Council Offices, Narborough

TUESDAY, 14 MARCH 2006

Present:-

(none)

Mr J.C. Dodd

Dr B.W. Kiernan

Mr B. North

Officers present:-

Mrs E.M. Read

- Democratic Services Manager

Apologies:-

(none)

6. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 October 2005, as circulated, were approved and signed as a true record.

7. **MEMBERS ALLOWANCES**

Considered - The report to the Democratic Services Manager relating to the request by Council to reconsider the Special Responsibility Allowances and the requirement placed on the Development Control Committee Chairman and Vice-Chairman to produce timesheets.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

The Panel noted the concerns of Council regarding the request for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Development Control Committee to keep timesheets, however, it was to enable the Panel to judge the difference between the roles. The allowance will still be reviewed after 12 months, the Panel will consider evidence at that time and has requested that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman attend that meeting to explain their roles.

The Panel notes the request to consider index-linking the Special Responsibility Allowances, however, would confirm that it had reviewed the Special Responsibility Allowances previously and they were considered to be in line with the other authorities. The Panel has undertaken to review the Special Responsibility Allowances at the same time as the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Development Control Committee and re-consider comparisons with the audit family grouping, and will also establish whether other authorities index-link their Special Responsibility Allowances and take this into consideration at that time.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 4.50 P.M.

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Meeting:	Independent Remuneration Panel
Date:	5 December 2006
Subject:	Members Allowances
Report of:	Democratic Services Manager
Status:	Public

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The Panel at its meeting on 27 October 2005 (Minute 5 refers) agreed to review the Special Responsibility Allowances for the Chairman & Vice Chairman of Development Control after 12 months. It also agreed at its meeting 14 March 2006 (minute 7 refers) to review all the Special Responsibility allowances in accordance with the the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances)(England) Regulations 2003 (as amended).

2.	<u>Recommendation to Panel</u>
2.1	The Panel considers what changes, if any, should be made to the Members Allowance Scheme.
3.	<u>Reason for Decision Recommended</u>
3.1	To ensure that the Members Allowance scheme is reviewed on a regular basis and that the allowances payable are appropriate.

4. Forward Plan

- 4.1 Not applicable

5. Key Decision

- 5.1 No

6. Matter(s) for Consideration

- 6.1 The Panel agreed at previous meetings to review the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Development Control Allowances along with all the Special Responsibility Allowances. I have written to the Chairman & Vice Chairman inviting them to attend the meeting or to submit a written response.
- 6.2 The Panel requested that comparison information be supplied in relation to all Leicestershire authorities together with the authorities in the same family grouping. Attached at Appendix 1 is a table which shows all allowances paid together with comparisons with these authorities.
- 6.3 I have also written to all the Members to ask if there were any particular aspects of the Scheme which they felt should be reviewed and attached at Appendix 2 is a table detailing these requests.
- 6.4 The Panel also requested information in relation to other authorities that Index link their Special Responsibility allowances. I can confirm that the following authorities do index link their allowances:
- Leicester City Council
 - East Northants District Council
 - Rushcliffe Borough Council
 - South Derbyshire District Council (subject to 4 yearly review)
 - Harborough District Council
 - Rushcliffe Borough Council (subject to 3 yearly review)
 - Rutland County Council

7. Other Options Considered

- 7.1 Not to alter the Members Allowance scheme

8. Appropriate Consultations

- 8.1 All Councillors.

9. Financial and Efficiency Implications

- 9.1 Any increases in members allowances would not be met within the existing revenue budgets allocated to members allowances and the Council would need to take this into account when considering any recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel.

10. List of Background Papers

- 10.1 *None*

The following Officer(s)/Member(s) have been consulted (identified by ✓):

- ✓ Monitoring Officer

Appendix 1

	Population	Gross Expenditure 2005/06	Net Expenditure 2005/06	Basic Allowance	Leader of the Council	Deputy Leader of the Council	Leader of Opposition (Minority) Groups	Deputy Leaders of Minority Groups	Members of the Cabinet Executive	Junior Cabinet Members	Cabinet Executive Portfolio Holder Including Finance	Group Whips
Blaby DC	90,252	£32,573,262	£14,471,612	£3,729	£10,000	£1,000	£3,000	£1,000	£5,000	£2,000	£500	
Charnwood BC	153,462	£75,978,000	£32,642,000	£4,563	£6,845	£3,422	£2,282		£4,563			
Gedling BC	111,787	£53,730,000	£19,953,000	£3,432	£9,480	£7,896	£6,324 & £3,156		£6,324			£3,156
South Staffs DC	105,896	<i>No figures available for 2005/06</i>	<i>No figures available for 2005/06</i>	£5,000	£10,350	£5,000	£2,500		£5,000			
Rushcliffe BC	105,599	£34,322,000	£13,605,000	£3,440	£8,453	£5,824	£4,285 or £2,145		£4,285			
Hinckley & Bosworth BC	100,141	<i>No figures available for 2005/06</i>	<i>No figures available for 2005/06</i>	£3,094	£6,964		£1,553		£3,870			
Lichfield DC	93,232	£39,918,000	£11,015,000	£2,540	£11,590	£6,450	£3,790	£2,850	£6,450		£6,450	
North West Leics. DC	85,503	£52,176,157	£20,628,497	£3,100	£12,400	£5,425	£3,100		£4,650			
South Leics. BC	81,562	£45,093,000	£14,886,000	£5,280	£17,424	£9,582	£8,712	£2,178				
Harborough DC	76,559	£37,567,000	£15,527,000	£2,153	£6,460		£1,292					
East Northants.	76,550	£29,612,972	£11,192,894	£3,288	£4,929	£2,466	£2,466					
South Holland DC	76,522	£47,502,000	£18,239,000	£4,097	£14,806	£7,402	£295 + (£29.62 for each member of Group)		£5,922 or £2,960			
Oadby & Wigston BC	55,795	<i>No figures available for 2005/06</i>	<i>No figures available for 2005/06</i>	£3,523	£6,504	£2,167	£2,167					
Melton BC	47,866	£25,530,901	£10,443,777	£3,861	£5,790		£3,000					
Rutland CC	34,563	<i>No figures available for 2005/06</i>	<i>No figures available for 2005/06</i>	£3,500	£10,600				£7,100			
Leicester CC	279,921	£799,095,000	£419,217,000	£6,524	£33,697	£11,743	£2,447		£9,786			£2,447
Leics. CC	609,578	£815,904,000	£577,363,000	£7,140	£33,648	£20,196	£650 (per member)		£17,952	£,8,724		£1,128

	Population	Gross Expenditure 2005/06	Net Expenditure 2005/06	Chairman of Standards Committee	Vice-Chairman of Standards Committee	Members of Standards Committee (elected)	Members of Standards Committee (independent)	Chairman of Licensing Committee	Vice-Chairman of Licensing Committee	Members of Licensing Committee	Member of Licensing Sub Committee	Chairman of Regulatory Committee
Blaby DC	90,252	£32,573,262	£14,471,612	£1,500			£200	£750			£25	£750
Charnwood BC	153,462	£75,978,000	£32,642,000	£1,369			£228	£2,282	£684			£1,369
Gedling BC	111,787	£53,730,000	£19,953,000				£504	£3,156			£250 per member + £3,156 for chairman	
South Staffs DC	105,896	<i>No figures available for 2005/06</i>	<i>No figures available for 2005/06</i>	£2,590				£2,590				£2,590
Rushcliffe BC	105,599	£34,322,000	£13,605,000	£1,084			£274	£3,440	£1,719			
Hinckley & Bosworth BC	100,141	<i>No figures available for 2005/06</i>	<i>No figures available for 2005/06</i>	£1,553							£750	
Lichfield DC	93,232	£39,918,000	£11,015,000	£2,540				£2,540	£635			
North West Leics. DC	85,503	£52,176,157	£20,628,497									
South Leics. BC	81,562	£45,093,000	£14,886,000	£1,743			£276	£2,178				
Derbyshire DC	76,559	£37,567,000	£15,527,000	£2,850		£969	£480	£673		£538		£673
East Northants.	76,550	£29,612,972	£11,192,894	£1,317			£333	£825				£2,466
South Holland DC	76,522	£47,502,000	£18,239,000	£1,185	£518		£296	£2,960	£1,185			
Oadby & Wigston BC	55,795	<i>No figures available for 2005/06</i>	<i>No figures available for 2005/06</i>	£813	£270		£200	£2,150	£716		£25.60 (up to 4 hours) £82 (over 4 hours)	
Melton BC	47,866	£25,530,901	£10,443,777	£1,544				£2,895				
Rutland CC	34,563	<i>No figures available for 2005/06</i>	<i>No figures available for 2005/06</i>					£4,120	£7,100			
Leicester CC	279,921	£799,095,000	£419,217,000					£6,361	£3,181	£2,426	£2,426	
Leics. CC	609,578	£815,904,000	£577,363,000	£1,000			£750					

	Population	Gross Expenditure 2005/06	Net Expenditure 2005/06	Chairman of Scrutiny Commission	Vice-Chairman of Scrutiny Commission	Scrutiny Commissioners	Chairman of Development Control Committee	Vice-Chairman of Development Control Committee	Chairman/Mayor of Council
Blaby DC	90,252	£32,573,262	£14,471,612	£4,000		£3,000	£4,000	£1,000	
Charnwood BC	153,462	£75,978,000	£32,642,000	£3,194	£1,369	£3,194	£3,422		
Gedling BC	111,787	£53,730,000	£19,953,000	£3,156		£3,156	£3,156		£3,156
South Staffs DC	105,896	<i>No figures available for 2005/06</i>	<i>No figures available for 2005/06</i>			£2,590			£5,000
Rushcliffe BC	105,599	£34,322,000	£13,605,000				£3,440	£1,719	£3,129 + £4,448
Hinckley & Bosworth BC	100,141	<i>No figures available for 2005/06</i>	<i>No figures available for 2005/06</i>	£2,320		£1,553	£2,320		
Lichfield DC	93,232	£39,918,000	£11,015,000			£2,540	£6,540	£1,530	£2,540
North West Leics. DC	85,503	£52,176,157	£20,628,497	£3,100	£1,550		£3,100		
South Derbys. BC	81,562	£45,093,000	£14,886,000			£6,972	£8,712	£1,743	
Derborough DC	76,559	£37,567,000	£15,527,000	£5,168		£2,564	£3,876		
East Northants.	76,550	£29,612,972	£11,192,894	£2,466	£825	£2,466			
South Holland DC	76,522	£47,502,000	£18,239,000			£2,960	£3,701	£1,480	
Oadby & Wigston BC	55,795	<i>No figures available for 2005/06</i>	<i>No figures available for 2005/06</i>	£3,072	£1,024		£3,072	£1,024	£2,710
Melton BC	47,866	£25,530,901	£10,443,777	£2,895	£965		£2,895	£965	
Rutland CC	34,563	<i>No figures available for 2005/06</i>	<i>No figures available for 2005/06</i>	£5,150	£10,600	£4,120	£4,120		£4,120 + £3,500 + £1,800
Leicester CC	279,921	£799,095,000	£419,217,000	£4,893			£6,361	£3,181	£7,829
Leics. CC	609,578	£815,904,000	£577,363,000	£14,000		£6,732	£3,696		

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Members Allowance Scheme – Record of Considerations/Representations received

Member Name	Position	Questions/Matters for Consideration
Councillor E. F. White	Leader of the Council	<p>Councillor White has requested that the following considerations are made:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To look again at the basic allowance 2. To consider whether the Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) should be increased and also whether they should be automatically increased in line with inflation each year. It should be noted that there is a strong feeling within the Council that this is desirable 3. To examine whether there is any justification for the deputy leaders of minority groups to receive an allowance. The deputy leader of the major group frequently needs to act as Leader of the Council, something minority group deputy leaders never have to do 4. To examine whether it is appropriate where the same member receives two SRAs for only the larger sum to be paid. I have in mind the situation where a group leader is also scrutiny commissioner, particularly at the moment, where the Leader of the Opposition is also Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission 5. To examine whether in light of the above the balance between the allowance paid to the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition/Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission is appropriate 6. Whether the allowance paid to a Group Leader should reflect the size of the group. I have in mind the current situation where one group leader has only four members, including a deputy with an allowance, and receives the same allowance as the other leader, the leader of the opposition, with a group of 9 members 7. To examine whether those appointed as 'Champions' should receive an allowance and if to so recommend an appropriate amount

Members Allowance Scheme – Record of Considerations/Representations received

Member Name	Position	Questions/Matters for Consideration
Cllr J. Blackwell	Councillor – Enderby and St Johns Ward and Junior Cabinet Member	Could the panel consider the implementation of a system where payment of the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances are linked to meeting attendance.
Cllr J. Peachey	Councillor – Ellis Ward	<p>Regarding Development Control Committee, we currently meet 13 times per year. We mainly have site visits which can begin at any time from 2pm leading up to the main meeting at 4.30pm which generally lasts until 6.15-6.30pm. Development Control is a quasi-judicial body of 17 members including the chairperson. We meet in order to determine planning applications, many of which are quite controversial and bring sheaves of representations with which we are furnished 7 days before the meeting. The applications for determination plus the letters of representations from concerned parties mostly form a period of 2 to 3 hours reading and inwardly digestion. Sometimes there are so many letters they reach the size of a substantial book!</p> <p>Therefore, in relation to the substance of the Committee I feel that those members (about 9) who regularly attend site visits should be financially rewarded to some degree for each site visit attended and that all members should be rewarded for the onus of reading responsibility that this committee demands. Furthermore, it must be borne in mind that to be a member of this Committee one has to have had special training.</p>
Cllr D. Jennings	Councillor – Countesthorpe Ward and Chairman of the Standards Committee	Consideration should be given to introducing a system of payment which is linked to Members attendance at meetings. For example, other Local Authorities have implemented a system where if a Members attendance falls below a certain threshold then their allowances are amended to reflect this. So, if a Members attendance at designated meetings was to fall below 80%, the allowance payable would proportionately reflect this drop.

Members Allowance Scheme – Record of Considerations/Representations received

Member Name	Position	Questions/Matters for Consideration
Cllr. J. Fox	Councillor – Ravenhurst and Fosse Ward	I would like the panel to consider laptops for elected members. Also Fax machines which were supplied ten or twelve years ago are obsolete and need updating.
Cllr A. Dilks	Councillor – Cosby with South Whetstone	<p>I would like to put forward the following items for the consideration of the Independent Remuneration Panel.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development Control Committee - I understand that members of the Licensing Committee now receive a £25 allowance for attendance. I feel that this allowance should be extended to attendance at Development Control as the responsibilities are similar. This work is non-political and all who serve on this Committee must be trained and observe strict rules (including substitutes). The time involved is considerable. 2. Special Responsibility Allowances – These decline in value year on year and need to be index linked in line with public sector remuneration. 3. Chairman of the Committee Allowance – The Chairman of the Council receives an allowance that is considerably less than the allowance for chairing Development Control. I feel this allowance, which I was told was to cover expenses such as ‘hairdressing’, should better reflect the responsibility of Chairing full council meetings.

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