

DATE: 16 January 2007  
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**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 Council Chamber at these offices on **THURSDAY, 25 JANUARY 2007 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 - 4)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2006 (enclosed).

3. Review of Members Allowances (Pages 5 - 8)

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



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## **INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL**

Minutes of a meeting held at the Council Offices, Narborough

**TUESDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2006**

### **Present:-**

Mr J.C. Dodd

Dr B.W. Kiernan

Mr B. North

### **Officers present:-**

Mrs E.M. Read - Democratic Services Manager

### **Also in attendance:-**

Cllr. P.N. Fox, Cllr. F.G.H. Jackson (The Natural and Built Environment Portfolio) and  
Cllr. J.L. Weatherstone

### **Apologies:-**

(none)

## **1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

The Democratic Services Manager invited nominations for the election of the Chairman of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

### **DECISION**

That Dr B. W Kiernan be appointed Chairman of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

## **2. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2006, as circulated, were approved and signed as a correct record.

### 3. **MEMBERS ALLOWANCES**

**Considered** – The report of the Democratic Services Manager relating to the review of Members Allowances.

The Democratic Services Manager reminded the Panel that they had undertook to review the allowances for Chairman and Vice Chairman of Development Control Committee and consider index linking the Special Responsibility Allowances. She advised that she had also contacted all elected Members to establish if there were any other areas which they wished the panel to consider and the responses received were detailed in Appendix 2 to the report. She also advised that two further representations had been received from Cllrs P.N. Fox and G.L Welsh which were circulated.

Cllr J.L. Weatherstone attended the meeting to provide information in relation to her role as Chairman of Development Control Committee. Cllr P.N. Fox attended the meeting to present his representation to the panel.

The Panel requested information from the Democratic Services Manager, with regard to other authorities procedure in relation to the payment of more than one Special Responsibility Allowance. She advised that 6 of the comparison authorities paid only one SRA to a member and if they were entitled to more than one they would only receive the higher SRA, 1 authority paid upto to 2 SRA's and 1 other paid the higher SRA in full and 50% of the second. Information was also requested in relation to other authorities and payments to group leaders which was provided.

### **Recommendation to Council**

1. That all special responsibilities allowances and the basic allowance remain the same except for the following:
  - Deputy Leader – Further information is requested in relation to this role with clearer comparisons with other authorities and clarification be sort as to whether the Finance portfolio would always be linked to the Deputy Leader
  - That the panel is minded to either abolish or reduce the Junior Member allowances and would like to seek comments/feedback in relation to this together with information on comparable authorities.
2. That all special responsibility allowances be index linked in line with the staff pay award with effect from 1 April 2007 to be reviewed in 2007 and 3- yearly thereafter.
3. That only 2 special responsibility allowances should be paid to each Councillor.
4. That an allowance of £25 be paid to members of Development Control Committee where there are afternoon site visits they attend prior to the meeting.
5. Information be sought in relation to Member Champions such as the following:
  - How many champions are there?
  - What are their roles?
  - How are they appointed?
  - What is their expected commitment/objectives?
  - Why are they needed?
  - What have other authorities got?
6. An allowance based on attendance was considered but this was considered to be too onerous to administer which was why the scheme had been altered previously.
7. In relation to the provision of IT for Members this matter is being considered as part of Member Support.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 6.45 P.M.**

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## BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Independent Remuneration Panel</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>25 January 2007</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Members Allowances</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Democratic Services Manager</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Public</b>

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The Panel at its meeting on 5 December 2006 requested some further information and consultation on their draft recommendations in relation to the review of members allowances in accordance with the the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances)(England) Regulations 2003 (as amended).

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

**4. Forward Plan**

- 4.1 Not applicable

**5. Key Decision**

- 5.1 No

## **6. Matter(s) for Consideration**

- 6.1 The Panel at its last meeting agreed the recommendations detailed in the minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2006. As requested I wrote to all existing Councillors to consult on these proposed recommendations and attached at Appendix A to my report are the responses I have received so far. I will submit any further responses at the meeting. I have also been notified by Cllr G.L. Welsh that he wishes to attend the meeting to discuss the recommendation which relates to the payment of only 2 special responsibility allowances.
- 6.2 Attached at appendix b is the information in relation to the Deputy Leader and the comparison with other authorities.

## **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

Deputy Leader Special Responsibility Allowance Comparisons

	<b>Deputy Leader of the Council</b>	<b>Portfolio of Deputy Leader of the Council</b>	<b>Group Deputy Leader</b>
<b>Blaby DC</b>	£1,000 (+ £5,000 as Cabinet Executive Member)	Finance and E-Government	£1,000
<b>Charnwood BC</b>	£3,422 (this is split as 2 Deputy Leaders are in post)	Housing & Health and Regeneration, Children and Young People	
<b>Hinckley &amp; Bosworth BC</b>	<i>No SRA paid</i>	Corporate Services	
<b>Harborough DC</b>	<i>No SRA paid</i>	Health & Enforcement Services	
<b>Melton BC</b>	<i>No SRA paid</i>		
<b>North West Leics. DC</b>	£5,425	Organisational Development, External Partnerships & Community Safety	
<b>Oadby &amp; Wigston BC</b>	£2,167 (halved if role is shared)		
<b>Rutland CC</b>	<i>No SRA paid</i>	Corporate Services	
<b>Leicester City</b>	£12,453 (includes Cabinet Membership)	Regeneration & Planning	
<b>Leicestershire CC</b>	£20,196	Highways & Transportation	
<b>East Northants Gedling BC</b>	£2,466		
	£7,896	Crime & Community Development	
<b>Lichfield DC</b>	£6,450	Organisational Development	£2,850 (only applies to Deputy Leader of Principal Minority Group)
<b>Rushcliffe BC</b>	£5,824	Resources	
<b>South Derbyshire BC</b>	£9,582		£2,178
<b>South Holland DC</b>	£7,402	Rural Services	
<b>South Staffordshire DC</b>	£5,000 (per portfolio holder)	Support Services, Direct Services, Community Services, Environmental Services, Strategic Services	

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