

DATE: 16 March 2007
MY REF:
YOUR REF:
CONTACT: Mr Matthew Berry
TEL NO: 0116 272 7638
FAX NO: 0116 272 7596
EMAIL: secretariat@blaby.gov.uk

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 Brooks Room at these offices on **MONDAY, 26 MARCH 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 25 January 2007 (enclosed).

3. Members Allowances (Pages 5 - 10)

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

THURSDAY, 25 JANUARY 2007

Present:-

Dr B.W. Kiernan (Chairman)

Mr J.C. Dodd

Mr B. North

Officers present:-

Mrs E.M. Read - Democratic Services Manager

Also in attendance:-

Cllr. J.A. Dolby, Cllr. G.L. Welsh and Cllr. E.F. White (Leader of the Council)

Apologies:- (none)

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2006, as circulated, were approved and signed as a correct record.

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2006, as circulated, were approved and signed as a correct record.

5. **REVIEW OF MEMBERS ALLOWANCES**

Considered – Report of the Democratic Services Manager relating to the review of Members Allowances.

The Democratic Services Manager reminded the panel that they needed to consider the items left un-concluded from the previous meeting and following the provision of further information. The Democratic Services Manager also reminded the panel that all existing Councillors had been consulted on the proposed recommendations and that only one written response had been received which was attached as an appendix to the report.

Cllr. G. L. Welsh attended the meeting to provide information in relation to his roles as Group Leader, Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission, and Scrutiny Commissioner. Cllr. J. A. Dolby attended as an observer.

Cllr. E.F. White also attended the meeting to provide further information and representations in relation to Member Champions and the role of Junior Cabinet Members.

Recommendation to Council

1. 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 October 2007.
2. That only 2 Special Responsibility Allowances should be paid to each Councillor.
3. That an allowance of £25 be paid to members of the Development Control Committee where there are afternoon site visits that they attend prior to the meeting, with effect from 1 January 2007.
4. An allowance based on attendance was considered but this was determined to be too onerous to administer and was the reason the scheme was altered previously.
5. In relation to the provision of IT for Councillors, this matter is being considered as part of the review of Member Support.
6. That the Special Responsibility Allowance relating to the Cabinet Executive Portfolio Holder including Finance be abolished.
7. That the Special Responsibility Allowance relating to the Deputy Leader of the Council is increased to £1,500.
8. That the roles of Junior Cabinet Member and Member Champion be merged, resulting in a Special Responsibility Allowance for Junior Cabinet Member/Member Champion of £2,000. This will be reviewed in January 2008.
9. That the Special Responsibility Allowance for the roles of the Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission and Scrutiny Commissioner be combined and set at £5,000.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 5.35 P.M.

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BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Meeting: | Independent Remuneration Panel |
| Date: | 26 March 2007 |
| Subject: | Members Allowances |
| Report of: | Democratic Services Manager |
| Status: | Public |

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The Panel at its meeting on 25 January 2007 made its final recommendations to Council. Since then some further information has come to light and therefore the panel is requested to review the recommendations in relation to the review of Members' Allowances in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances)(England) Regulations 2003 (as amended) prior to submission of its recommendations to the Council.

| | |
|------------|--|
| 2. | <u>Recommendation to Panel</u> |
| 2.1 | The Panel consider, what if any changes, 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 at its last meeting agreed the final recommendations to Council detailed in the minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2007. After the meeting Officers were checking the recommendations and it appears that some incorrect information was provided to the panel.
- 6.2 The Chairman of Scrutiny Commission does not in fact also receive a Scrutiny Commissioners allowance, however, the panel were advised that this was not the case.
- 6.3 In relation to allowances received by the Leader of other authorities, the schemes had not been checked to establish if the Leader could also claim other allowances. This has now been checked and is detailed in Appendix A to the report.
- 6.4 It was also found that the panel had not considered the issue of opposition Deputy Leader allowances. Detailed in appendix B are the allowances paid by other authorities in this respect. I have also written to the Leaders of the Opposition parties to ask for their comments in relation to this matter.

7. Other Options Considered

- 7.1 Not to recommend and alterations to 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

Councils' Leaders SRA Comparisons

| Local Authority | Allowance Payment Year | Leader of the Council SRA | Leader of the Council – other SRA Entitlements |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Blaby DC | 2006/2007 | £10,000 | Entitled to 1 SRA only |
| Charnwood BC | 2006/2007 | £6,845 | £4,563 – Member of Cabinet Executive |
| Hinckley & Bosworth BC | 2006/2007 | £6,964 | £3,870 – Member of Cabinet Executive |
| North West Leics. DC | 2006/2007 | £13,776 | £2,558 – Member of Cabinet Executive (50% of allowance allocated to other Cabinet Members) |
| Harborough DC | 2005/2006 | £6,460 | Entitled to 1 SRA only |
| Melton BC | 2005/2006 | £5,961 | Entitled to 1 SRA only |
| Oadby & Wigston BC | 2006/2007 | £6,504 | Entitled to 1 SRA only |
| Rutland CC | 2005/2006 | £10,600 | Entitled to 1 SRA only |
| Leicester CC | 2006/2007 | £35,733 | Entitled to 1 SRA only |
| Leics. CC | 2006/2007 | £33,648 | £8,976 – Member of Cabinet Executive (50% of allowance allocated to other Cabinet Members) |
| Gedling BC | 2006/2007 | £9,480 | Entitled to 1 SRA only |
| Rushcliffe BC | 2006/2007 | £8,453 | Entitled to 1 SRA only |
| Lichfield DC | 2006/2007 | £11,590 | Entitled to 1 SRA only |
| South Derbys. BC | 2006/2007 | £17,424 | Entitled to 1 SRA only |
| East Northants. | 2006/2007 | £4,929 | Entitled to 1 SRA only |
| South Holland DC | 2006/2007 | £14,806 | £5,922 – Member of Cabinet Executive £295 – Group Leader + £29.62 per member of political group |
| South Staffs DC | 2006/2007 | £10,350 | Entitled to 1 SRA only |

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Deputy Leader of the Opposition

| Local Authority | Deputy Leader of the Opposition |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Blaby DC | £1,000 |
| Charnwood BC | <i>No SRA paid</i> |
| Hinckley & Bosworth BC | <i>No SRA paid</i> |
| Harborough DC | <i>No SRA paid</i> |
| Melton BC | <i>No SRA paid</i> |
| North West Leics. DC | <i>No SRA paid</i> |
| Oadby & Wigston BC | <i>No SRA paid</i> |
| Rutland CC | <i>No SRA paid</i> |
| Leicester City | <i>No SRA paid</i> |
| Leicestershire CC | <i>No SRA paid</i> |
| East Northants | <i>No SRA paid</i> |
| Gedling BC | <i>No SRA paid</i> |
| Lichfield DC | £2,850 |
| Rushcliffe BC | <i>No SRA paid</i> |
| South Derbyshire BC | £2,178 |
| South Holland DC | <i>No SRA paid</i> |
| South Staffordshire DC | <i>No SRA paid</i> |

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