

INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

Minutes of a meeting held at the Council Offices, Narborough

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2008

Present:-

Dr B.W. Kiernan (Chairman)

Mr J.C. Dodd
Mr B. North

Officers present:-

Mrs E.M. Read	- Democratic Services Manager
Mr M. Berry	- Senior Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance:-

Cllr. J. Blackwell
Cllr. G.L. Welsh

Apologies:-

None

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 04 September 2008, as circulated, were approved and signed as a correct record.

5. **REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME**

Considered – Report of the Democratic Services Manager.

Cllrs. J. Blackwell and G.L. Welsh were in attendance for this item.

Cllr. Welsh presented the Panel with a verbal report on the differences between the work of a Minority Group Leader and that of the Chair of the Scrutiny Commission, following submissions made by Councillors to the previous Panel meeting, and explained the recent changes to the Scrutiny structure and some of the areas of work Scrutiny has been undertaking.

A written submission from Cllr. P.N. Fox in respect of the review of the Scheme was presented to the Panel for consideration.

A verbal submission from Cllr. F.G.H. Jackson in respect of travel allowances rates for 'non-motorised' forms of transport was also presented to the Panel for consideration.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

1. That no changes be made to the following Allowances:

- Basic Allowance;
- Leader of the Council;
- Leaders of Opposition (Minority) Groups;
- Deputy Leaders of Opposition (Minority) Groups;
- Members of Cabinet Executive;
- Member Champions (non Cabinet Executive Members);
- Chairman of Standards Committee;
- Chairman of Scrutiny Commission;
- Scrutiny Commissioners (excluding the Chairman of Scrutiny Commission);
- Chairman of Development Control Committee;
- Vice-Chairman of Development Control Committee;
- Dependent Carers.

2. That the following Allowances be abolished:

- Chairman of Licensing Committee;
- Chairman of Regulatory Committee;
- Licensing Sub-Committee Members;
- Development Control Committee Site Visits Attendance.

3. That the Deputy Leader of the Council and Deputy Leader of the Cabinet Executive Allowances be merged.

4. That rates for Travel Allowances be paid at the same rates as those specified in the Officer Travel Scheme, including any future rates set in respect of non-motorised forms of transport.
5. That rates for Subsistence Allowances be paid at the same rates as those specified in the Officer Subsistence Scheme.
6. That a review of Overnight Absence Allowances payable be delegated to the Democratic Services Manager in consultation with the Chairman of the Independent Remuneration Panel and any subsequent decision by the (IRP) be brought to Council for consideration.
7. That index-linking of the Basic Allowance, Special Responsibility Allowances and Pensions continues.
8. That the Standards Committee Independent and Parish/Town Council Members Allowance remains the same, but not be paid to the Chairman of Standards Committee.

Reasons:

1. The Allowances payable are at an appropriate level when compared with local authorities in Leicestershire and in the Council's family group.
2. Due to the reduced workload of the Licensing Committee, Licensing Sub-Committee, Regulatory Committee and Development Control Committee (with regards to site visits).
3. To be consistent with how the Deputy Leader payment is made at other local authorities.
4. To ensure consistency of payment for both Members and Officers.
5. To ensure consistency of payment for both Members and Officers.
6. Due to the varying price rates advertised for overnight accommodation.
7. To ensure Allowances payments made are set at a viable level on an annual basis.
8. The Allowances payable are at an appropriate level for those Standards Committee Members who are neither District Council Members, nor the Chairman of the Committee.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 6.00 P.M.