

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Meeting:	Independent Remuneration Panel
Date:	21 September 2011
Subject:	Review of Members' Allowances Scheme
Report of:	Senior Democratic Services Officer
Status:	Public

1. **Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To seek from the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) recommendations for any changes to the Members' Allowances Scheme.

2.	<u>Recommendation to Independent Remuneration Panel</u>
2.1	That the Independent Remuneration Panel considers what changes (if any) should be made to the Members' Allowances Scheme.
3.	<u>Reason for Decision Recommended</u>
3.1	It is appropriate for the Panel to consider whether or not undertake a full review of the Members' Allowances Scheme, following concerns raised by Members regarding previous recommendations made and the appointment of a new member to the Panel.

4. **Forward Plan**

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5. **Key Decision**

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6. **Matters for Consideration**

Background

- 6.1 The current Members' Allowances Scheme ('the Scheme') was first adopted in May 2003, and since then a number of revisions have been made to the Scheme.
- 6.2 A full review of the Scheme was last undertaken in October 2010. Following this review, Members raised concerns about some of the recommendations made by the Panel. Accordingly, the recommendations were not submitted to Council for formal consideration. The Panel was requested to review the

recommendations after the May 2011 elections.

Review Documents

6.3 Following consultation with the Panel, the following documents were requested to aid the review:

- Current Members' Allowances Scheme – Appendix A;
- Schedule of Allowances Paid for 2010/2011 – Appendix B;
- Members' Allowances Comparisons Table – Appendix C;
- Mileage Allowances– information from HM Revenue & Customs Appendix D;
- Blaby DC Salary Scales 2010/2011 – Appendix E;
- Duration of Meetings held May 2010 to May 2011 – Appendix F;
- Officers Subsistence Allowances – Appendix G;

Members' Representations

6.4 All Members of Council were also written to asking for representations about the Scheme. The following comments were received via email:

Cllr. Greenwood – “I would ask the panel to consider the current District Councillors Mileage Allowance, i.e. 40 pence per mile be brought into line with Leicestershire County Councillors mileage allowance recently set at 45 pence per mile in April of this year.”

Cllr. Hewson – “I have not been a councillor very long. I do think the travel allowance needs to be evaluated due to the cost of fuel and to be comparable with the City councillors.”

Cllr. Jennings – “No cut in any allowances. Increase car mileage rate to 45p per mile with immediate effect, it is overdue.”

Letters were submitted by Cllr. J. Blackwell and Cllr. G. Welsh, and are attached for reference at Appendices H and I respectively.

7. Other Relevant Considerations

7.1 If any recommendations about changes to the Scheme are agreed at this meeting, then they will be submitted to the meeting of Council to be held on 11 October 2011 for Council's consideration.

7.2 Any recommendations approved by Council in respect of the Members' Allowances Scheme will be published in the Council's Contact magazine or the Leicester Mercury following the meeting, as is required by the Scheme.

8. Other Options Considered

8.1 None.

9. Appropriate Consultations

9.1 All District Councillors.

10. Financial and Efficiency Implications

10.1 None in the context of this report.

11. Appendices to this report

11.1 Appendix A – Current Members' Allowances Scheme.

11.2 Appendix B – Schedule of Allowances Paid for 2010/11

11.3 Appendix C – Members' Allowances Comparisons Table.

11.4 Appendix D – Mileage Allowances – information form HM Revenue & Customs

11.5 Appendix E – Blaby DC Salary Scales 2010/11

11.6 Appendix F – Duration of Meetings held May 2010 to May 2011.

11.7 Appendix G – Officers Subsistence Allowances

11.7 Appendix H – Letter from Cllr. J. Blackwell

11.8 Appendix I – Letter from Cllr. G. Welsh

12. List of Background Papers

12.1 None.