

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Agenda Item

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Meeting:	Independent Remuneration Panel
Date:	6th September 2005
Subject:	Review of Members Allowance Scheme
Report of:	Democratic Services Manager
Status:	Public

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To review the payments of members allowances in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances)(England) Regulations 2003 (as amended).

2.	<u>Recommendation to Council</u>
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2.1	Changes suggested to the Members Allowance scheme be referred to Council for consideration.
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3.	<u>Reason for Decision Recommended</u>
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3.1	To ensure that the Members Allowance scheme is reviewed on a regular basis and that the allowances payable are appropriate.
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4. Forward Plan

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5. Key Decision

- 5.1 No

6. Matter(s) for Consideration

- 6.1 At the end of 2003 the Independent Remuneration Panel reviewed the Members' Allowance Scheme in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances)(England)(Amendment) Regulations 2003 (as amended) which came in to force on 31st July 2003 and required local authorities to adopt a revised Members Allowance scheme by 31st December 2003.
- 6.2 I have attached at Appendix A a copy of the Regulations and the Amendment Regulations under which local authorities are required to operated the allowance schemes.
- 6.3 Due to changes in legislation in respect of Licensing consideration needs to be given to appropriate levels of allowances to the members that sit on the Licensing Sub-Committees. The Licensing Sub-Committees are held during the day on an as and when required basis.
- 6.4 I have been requested to ask the panel to consider including in the scheme provision to reimburse traveling expenses for junior cabinet members when they attend Cabinet Executive and if they are requested to attend meetings/events on behalf of a Cabinet Executive Member.
- 6.5 Consideration also needs to be given to including provision in the scheme to allow one member to provide transport to another member to enable that member to attend a meeting. The member that provides the transport under the present scheme would only be able to claim this travel allowance if it was a meeting that they were attending. The request is that irrespective of whether they were to attend the meeting if they were transporting another elected member then they should be able to claim the travel allowance.
- 6.6 It is also requested that you ensure that the basic and special responsibility allowances are still comparable to the other authorities in Leicestershire. A schedule is attached at appendix B.
- 6.7 I have attached at appendix C a copy of the current Members allowance scheme for you reference.

7. Other Options Considered

- 7.1 Not to alter the Members Allowance scheme.

8. Appropriate Consultations

- 8.1 All elected members have been contacted to establish any areas of the allowance scheme which needed to be reviewed.
- 8.2 All the local authorities in Leicestershire have been contacted regarding there members allowance schemes particularly in relation to the areas which need to be addressed and a schedule of the responses is attached at Appendix C.

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