

INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

Minutes of a meeting held at the Council Offices, Narborough

WEDNESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2011

Present:-

Dr B.W. Kiernan

Mr S. Knott

Mr B. North

Officers present:-

Mrs. J. Toman

- Director

Mr M. Berry

- Senior Democratic Services Officer

Apologies:-

None.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The Director invited nominations for the election of Chairman of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

DECISION

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

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 October 2010 as circulated, were approved as a correct record.

3. REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME

Considered – Report of the Director.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

1. That no change be made to the Basic Allowance.
2. That no change be made to the Special Responsibility Allowance of the Leader.
3. That no change be made to the Special Responsibility Allowance of the Deputy Leader (and Cabinet Executive)
4. That no change be made to the Special Responsibility Allowance of the Leaders of Opposition (Minority) Groups.
5. That the Special Responsibility Allowance of the Deputy Leaders of Minority Groups be abolished.
6. That no change be made to the Special Responsibility Allowance of the Members of Cabinet Executive(excluding the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council).
7. That the Council consider whether to reduce or abolish the Special Responsibility Allowance of the Chairman of Standards Committee.
8. That no change be made to the Special Responsibility Allowance of the Chairman of Scrutiny Commission.
9. That no change be made to the Special Responsibility Allowance of the Scrutiny Commissioners.
10. That no change be made to the Special Responsibility Allowance of the Chairman of Development Control Committee.
11. That no change be made to the Special Responsibility Allowance of the Vice-Chairman of Scrutiny Commission.
12. That the Dependants' Carers' Allowance remain unchanged.
13. That the Travel Allowance be increased to 45p per mile.
14. That no change be made to the Subsistence Allowance.
15. That no change be made in respect of Pensions payments.

Reasons for Recommendations:

Recommendations – 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9

The current rates paid are in line with those paid by other authorities in the Council's 'Family Group' and no representations were received from Councillors requesting these allowances be amended or abolished.

Recommendation 5:

The Panel deemed that the Special Responsibility Allowance paid to the Deputy Leaders of Minority Groups was inappropriate as few other Councils paid the allowance, and it was predominantly a political role rather than a Council role.

Recommendation 7:

The Panel deemed it appropriate for the Council to consider whether to reduce or abolish this allowance on the basis of the proposed changes to the Standards regime as detailed in the Localism Bill.

Recommendations 10 and 11:

The Panel deemed that the allowances were appropriate and proportionate given the statutory importance and high public profile of the Committee.

Recommendations 12 and 15:

No representations had been received from Councillors requesting these allowances be amended or abolished, therefore the Panel felt no changes were required as the Scheme appeared to be working well.

Recommendation 13:

The Panel had received requests from Councillors for this allowance to be increased to the recommended rate to bring the Council in line with the rate paid by neighbouring authorities and HM Revenue & Customs limits.

Recommendation 14:

The Subsistence Allowances were the same as those paid to the Officers, so the Panel deemed that no change was required as the rates were commensurate.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 6.22 P.M.