

# BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Independent Remuneration Panel</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>7 July 2014</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Review of Members' Allowance Scheme</b>
<b>Report author and contact details:</b>	<b>Mrs S Tienza Senior Democratic Services Officer Council Offices 0116 272 7640</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Public</b>

## 1. **Purpose of Report**

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

<b>2.</b>	<b><u>Recommendation to the Independent Remuneration Panel</u></b>
2.1	That the Independent Remuneration Panel considers what changes (if any) should be made to the Members' Allowance Scheme.
<b>3.</b>	<b><u>Reason for Decision Recommended</u></b>
3.1	It is appropriate for the Panel to consider whether or not to make any changes to the Members Allowances Scheme

## 4. **Forward Plan**

- 4.1 Not applicable

## 5. **Key Decision**

- 5.1 Not applicable

## 6. **Matters for Consideration**

### Background

- 6.1 The current Members' Allowance Scheme was first adopted in May 2003, and since then a number of revisions have been to the Scheme.
- 6.2 A full review of the Scheme was undertaken on 21 September 2011.

## Members' Representations

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

Cllr L Breckon – The Development Control Committee need an allowance for their commitment to this committee. The time spent on site visits, then the meeting itself, are getting fully loaded and the meetings can now go on until 8.00pm.

I would rather have an annual allowance upon appointment, rather than per meeting claim system. It could be given/awarded as a training allowance for member development expectation.

Cllr T Richardson – With members mileage allowances now being subject to taxation, for journeys to and from the council offices, it strikes me that a simpler scheme for both council and members could be put in place.

I have noted that just under half the members do not claim mileage (based on the latest information available) and that of the ratio most cover modest amounts with larger amounts claimed for specific journeys on council business.

I would suggest that there should perhaps be a tiered members allowance based on distance of ward from the council offices and would look to have say there concentric when providing three levels of allowance.

As an example the current basic allowance of £3965.64 could be changed to:

Inner Band - £4000  
Middle Band - £4035  
Outer Band - £4070

A modest increase of this nature would obviate the need to for claims to be lodged checked and paid and provide little in the way of additional costs to the Council. Any expenses for courses etc would still be claimed in the normal way.

In addition with ever greater demands placed upon members of the Development Control Committee and the requirement for them to keep up to date with planning regulations etc I would suggest consideration is given to providing members of the committee with a 'training allowance'. Again this should be modest in amount and a figure of say £200 may be worth consideration. This could if felt appropriate be linked to attendance at a minimum number of meetings.

The issue of members allowances is always a difficult and complex one with a fine balancing act between cost to the public and ensuring that members are not financially disadvantaged which may effect of further reducing the pool of those willing and able to represent their fellow citizens.

The following comments were also made by Members:

Cllr A Tanner – I don't think members should get paid to attend Development

Control meetings or site visits. I think the basic allowance covers all meeting attendances. You attend Development Control as a Councillor and should not be paid extra.

Cllr J Blackwell – There should be an increase for members of Development Control Committee.

Cllr W Wright – I am happy with everything as it is except I would like to see the £25 site visit allowance re- introduced.

## **7. Other Relevant Considerations**

7.1 If any recommendations about the changes to the Scheme are agreed at this Meeting, then they will be submitted to the meeting of Council to be held on 22 July 2014 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.

### Human Rights Act 1998

7.3 Human rights have been considered but there are no overarching matters for concern in relation to this report.

### Legal Implications

7.4 Legal implications have been considered but there are no overarching matters for concern in relation to this report.

### Human Resources Implications

7.5 Human resources implications have been considered but there are no overarching matters.

### Risk Assessment & Business Continuity

7.6 There are no risk, business continuity or resilience issues relating to this report.

### Equalities

7.7 Not applicable.

### Nottingham Declaration and Climate Change

7.8 Not applicable

### Crime & Disorder

7.9 Not applicable

Other

7.10 Not applicable

**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. Appendix/Appendices to this report**

11.1 Current Members' Allowance Scheme - Appendix A

11.2 Schedule of Allowances Paid for 2013/2014 – Appendix B

11.3 Members' Allowances Comparisons Table – Appendix C

11.4 Mileage Allowances- Information from HM Revenue & Customs –Appendix D

**12. List of Background Papers**

12.1 None.

The following Officers/Members have been consulted:

(insert ✓ below to show relevant consultation has taken place)

**Head of Paid Service** (Chief Executive)

**S. 151 Officer** (Financial Services Group Manager)

**Monitoring Officer** (Corporate Services Group Manager)

**Cabinet Executive Portfolio Holder** (Cabinet Executive/Council reports only)