

Members Allowance Scheme – Record of Considerations/Representations received

Member Name	Position	Questions/Matters for Consideration
Councillor E. F. White	Leader of the Council	<p>Councillor White has requested that the following considerations are made:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To look again at the basic allowance 2. To consider whether the Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) should be increased and also whether they should be automatically increased in line with inflation each year. It should be noted that there is a strong feeling within the Council that this is desirable 3. To examine whether there is any justification for the deputy leaders of minority groups to receive an allowance. The deputy leader of the major group frequently needs to act as Leader of the Council, something minority group deputy leaders never have to do 4. To examine whether it is appropriate where the same member receives two SRAs for only the larger sum to be paid. I have in mind the situation where a group leader is also scrutiny commissioner, particularly at the moment, where the Leader of the Opposition is also Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission 5. To examine whether in light of the above the balance between the allowance paid to the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition/Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission is appropriate 6. Whether the allowance paid to a Group Leader should reflect the size of the group. I have in mind the current situation where one group leader has only four members, including a deputy with an allowance, and receives the same allowance as the other leader, the leader of the opposition, with a group of 9 members 7. To examine whether those appointed as 'Champions' should receive an allowance and if to so recommend an appropriate amount

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Cllr J. Blackwell	Councillor – Enderby and St Johns Ward and Junior Cabinet Member	Could the panel consider the implementation of a system where payment of the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances are linked to meeting attendance.
Cllr J. Peachey	Councillor – Ellis Ward	<p>Regarding Development Control Committee, we currently meet 13 times per year. We mainly have site visits which can begin at any time from 2pm leading up to the main meeting at 4.30pm which generally lasts until 6.15-6.30pm. Development Control is a quasi-judicial body of 17 members including the chairperson. We meet in order to determine planning applications, many of which are quite controversial and bring sheaves of representations with which we are furnished 7 days before the meeting. The applications for determination plus the letters of representations from concerned parties mostly form a period of 2 to 3 hours reading and inwardly digestion. Sometimes there are so many letters they reach the size of a substantial book!</p> <p>Therefore, in relation to the substance of the Committee I feel that those members (about 9) who regularly attend site visits should be financially rewarded to some degree for each site visit attended and that all members should be rewarded for the onus of reading responsibility that this committee demands. Furthermore, it must be borne in mind that to be a member of this Committee one has to have had special training.</p>
Cllr D. Jennings	Councillor – Countesthorpe Ward and Chairman of the Standards Committee	Consideration should be given to introducing a system of payment which is linked to Members attendance at meetings. For example, other Local Authorities have implemented a system where if a Members attendance falls below a certain threshold then their allowances are amended to reflect this. So, if a Members attendance at designated meetings was to fall below 80%, the allowance payable would proportionately reflect this drop.

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Cllr. J. Fox	Councillor – Ravenhurst and Fosse Ward	I would like the panel to consider laptops for elected members. Also Fax machines which were supplied ten or twelve years ago are obsolete and need updating.
Cllr A. Dilks	Councillor – Cosby with South Whetstone	<p>I would like to put forward the following items for the consideration of the Independent Remuneration Panel.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development Control Committee - I understand that members of the Licensing Committee now receive a £25 allowance for attendance. I feel that this allowance should be extended to attendance at Development Control as the responsibilities are similar. This work is non-political and all who serve on this Committee must be trained and observe strict rules (including substitutes). The time involved is considerable. 2. Special Responsibility Allowances – These decline in value year on year and need to be index linked in line with public sector remuneration. 3. Chairman of the Committee Allowance – The Chairman of the Council receives an allowance that is considerably less than the allowance for chairing Development Control. I feel this allowance, which I was told was to cover expenses such as ‘hairdressing’, should better reflect the responsibility of Chairing full council meetings.