

INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

Minutes of a meeting held at the Council Offices, Narborough

TUESDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2006

Present:-

Mr J.C. Dodd

Dr B.W. Kiernan

Mr B. North

Officers present:-

Mrs E.M. Read - Democratic Services Manager

Also in attendance:-

Cllr. P.N. Fox, Cllr. F.G.H. Jackson (The Natural and Built Environment Portfolio) and
Cllr. J.L. Weatherstone

Apologies:-
(none)

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

The Democratic Services Manager invited nominations for the election of the Chairman of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

DECISION

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

2. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2006, as circulated, were approved and signed as a correct record.

3. MEMBERS ALLOWANCES

Considered – The report of the Democratic Services Manager relating to the review of Members Allowances.

The Democratic Services Manager reminded the Panel that they had undertook to review the allowances for Chairman and Vice Chairman of Development Control Committee and consider index linking the Special Responsibility Allowances. She advised that she had also contacted all elected Members to establish if there were any other areas which they wished the panel to consider and the responses received were detailed in Appendix 2 to the report. She also advised that two further representations had been received from Cllrs P.N. Fox and G.L Welsh which were circulated.

Cllr J.L. Weatherstone attended the meeting to provide information in relation to her role as Chairman of Development Control Committee. Cllr P.N. Fox attended the meeting to present his representation to the panel.

The Panel requested information from the Democratic Services Manager, with regard to other authorities procedure in relation to the payment of more than one Special Responsibility Allowance. She advised that 6 of the comparison authorities paid only one SRA to a member and if they were entitled to more than one they would only receive the higher SRA, 1 authority paid upto to 2 SRA's and 1 other paid the higher SRA in full and 50% of the second. Information was also requested in relation to other authorities and payments to group leaders which was provided.

Recommendation to Council

1. That all special responsibilities allowances and the basic allowance remain the same except for the following:
 - Deputy Leader – Further information is requested in relation to this role with clearer comparisons with other authorities and clarification be sort as to whether the Finance portfolio would always be linked to the Deputy Leader
 - That the panel is minded to either abolish or reduce the Junior Member allowances and would like to seek comments/feedback in relation to this together with information on comparable authorities.
2. That all special responsibility allowances be index linked in line with the staff pay award with effect from 1 April 2007 to be reviewed in 2007 and 3- yearly thereafter.
3. That only 2 special responsibility allowances should be paid to each Councillor.
4. That an allowance of £25 be paid to members of Development Control Committee where there are afternoon site visits they attend prior to the meeting.
5. Information be sought in relation to Member Champions such as the following:
 - How many champions are there?
 - What are their roles?
 - How are they appointed?
 - What is their expected commitment/objectives?
 - Why are they needed?
 - What have other authorities got?
6. An allowance based on attendance was considered but this was considered to be too onerous to administer which was why the scheme had been altered previously.
7. In relation to the provision of IT for Members this matter is being considered as part of Member Support.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 6.45 P.M.