

# BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Independent Remuneration Panel</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>2 July 2007</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Members Allowances</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Democratic Services Manager</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Public</b>

## 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 At the meeting of Council held on 17 April 2007, the recommendation agreed by the majority of Members in relation to the report on Members Allowances was; *'That the recommendations be referred back to the Panel for further consideration.'* (Minute 441. 2006/2007 refers).
- 1.2 That the Panel considers a request from Cllr. R. Dixon to claim for Carers' Allowances, as defined within Part 6 of the Council's Constitution.

<b>2.</b>	<b><u>Recommendation to Council</u></b>
2.1	The Panel re-consider the recommendations to Council as requested and consider the issue of Carers' Allowances.
<b>3.</b>	<b><u>Reason for Decision Recommended</u></b>
3.1	To ensure that the Members Allowance scheme is reviewed on a regular basis and that the allowances payable are appropriate.
3.2	To consider whether it is appropriate for Cllr. Dixon to claim for Carers' Allowances.

## 4. Forward Plan

- 4.1 Not applicable.

## 5. Key Decision

- 5.1 Not applicable.

## **6. Matters for Consideration**

6.1 Council requested at its meeting held on 17 April 2007 that the recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel to Council be referred back to the Panel for further consideration. The previous recommendations are as follows:

1. That all Special Responsibility Allowances be index linked in line with the staff pay award with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007, to be reviewed in October 2007.

2. That a maximum of 2 Special Responsibility Allowances only can be claimed by any Councillor.

3. That an allowance of £25 be paid to members of the Development Control Committee where there are afternoon site visits that they attend prior to the meeting, with effect from 1 January 2007.

4. An allowance based on attendance was considered but this was determined to be too onerous to administer and was the reason the scheme was altered previously.

5. In relation to the provision of IT for Councillors, this matter is being considered as part of the review of Member Support.

6. That the Special Responsibility Allowance relating to the Cabinet Executive Portfolio Holder including Finance be abolished.

7. That the Special Responsibility Allowance relating to the Deputy Leader of the Council is increased to £1,500.

8. That the roles of Junior Cabinet Member and Member Champion be merged, resulting in a Special Responsibility Allowance for Junior Cabinet Member/Member Champion of £2,000. To be reviewed in January 2008.

9. That no change be made to the Special Responsibility Allowance for Chair of the Scrutiny Commission.

10. That no change be made to the Special Responsibility Allowance for Leader of the Council. This allowance will be reviewed in October 2007.

11. That no change be made to the Special Responsibility Allowance of Deputy Leader of the Minority Groups.

6.2 The Panel is asked to consider in particular the recommendation relating to the payment of allowances to the Deputy Leaders of the Minority Groups. The Group Leaders have been written to, requesting information for the Panel regarding the role of, and any work undertaken by their respective Deputy Leaders. Any responses received will be presented to the Panel at the meeting.

6.3 Also attached at Appendix A is a schedule showing comparison of other authorities in relation to this issue.

6.4 Cllr. R. Dixon submitted a written request on 16 May 2007 to the Chief Executive of Blaby District Council to claim for Carers' Allowances. A copy of the request was sent to the Panel Members with a covering letter on 19 June 2007, and Cllr. Dixon was notified that the Panel would be considering his request at its meeting on 2 July 2007.

6.5 Attached at Appendix B to this report is a copy of the current Members Allowances Scheme for the Panel's information.

6.6 Any recommendations made by the Panel will be submitted to meeting of Council to be held on 10 July 2007.

## **7. Other Options Considered**

7.1 None.

## **8. Appropriate Consultations**

8.1 All Councillors.

## **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. Exempt Information**

10.1 None.

## **11. Appendix to this report**

11.1 Schedule detailing Comparisons in relation to certain allowances with other authorities.

11.2 Current Blaby District Council Members Allowances Scheme

## **12. List of Background Papers**

12.1 Letter 16 May 2007 from Cllr. R. Dixon regarding request to claim for Carers' Allowances.

The following Officer(s)/Member(s) have been consulted (identified by ✓):

✓ Monitoring Officer