

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Meeting:	Independent Remuneration Panel
Date:	04 September 2008
Subject:	Review of Members' Allowances Scheme
Report of:	Democratic Services Manager
Status:	Public

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To advise the Independent Remuneration Panel that a full review of the Council's Members' Allowances Scheme needs to be conducted in accordance with The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (as amended).
- 1.2 To seek from the Independent Remuneration Panel recommendations for any changes to the Scheme.

2.	<u>Recommendation to Independent Remuneration Panel</u>
2.1	That the Panel considers what changes (if any) should be made to the Members' Allowances Scheme.
3.	<u>Reason for Decision Recommended</u>
3.1	To ensure that that Members' Allowances Scheme is reviewed on a regular basis and that the allowances payable to Members are appropriate.

4. Forward Plan

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5. Key Decision

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6. Matters for Consideration

- 6.1 The current Members' Allowances Scheme ('the Scheme') was first adopted in May 2003, and since then a number of revisions have been made to the Scheme.
- 6.2 The last full review of the Scheme took place in 2005, following the appointment of three new Panel Members, and accordingly it is appropriate to conduct a full review of the Scheme once again following reappointment of

those Members to the Panel in May 2008.

- 6.3 The Panel was written to on 15 May 2008, informing them that the Scheme was due to be reviewed in 2008, and to request that they read through the Scheme and identify any areas they wish to review.
- 6.4 A follow-up letter was sent to the Panel Members on the 7 July 2008, and responses were received from two of the Panel Members on 10 July 2008 requesting the following documents:
- Comparison of allowances for all Leicestershire district authorities – attached to this report at Appendix A;
 - Comparison of allowances for all authorities in the Blaby District ‘family group’ – attached at Appendix B;
 - Allowances paid to Blaby District Councillors for 2007/2008 – attached at Appendix C;
 - Officers’ Travel and Subsistence Scheme – Attached at Appendix D.
- 6.5 The Chairman of the Panel also requested that all Members of Council be written to requesting for them to submit any information to the Panel relating to any aspects of the Scheme they would like to see reviewed.
- 6.6 The Council Members were written to on 10 July 2008, and responses were received from Cllrs. P.N. Fox and F.G.H. Jackson, and are attached at Appendices E and F for reference.
- 6.7 An additional request for consideration by the Panel was submitted by the Head of Administration & Legal Services as follows:
- To submit claims for Members’ travel and subsistence allowances on a monthly basis and, in any event, within one month of the year end. (This sentence also appears in the Financial Regulations of the Council’s Constitution, under Part 12, Appendix D, Section 4.26.)
- 6.8 Any recommendations made by the Panel will be submitted to the meeting of Council to be held on 14 October 2008 for Council’s consideration.
- 6.9 Any recommendations approved by Council in respect of the Members’ Allowances Scheme will be published in the Blaby Chronicle or the Leicester Mercury following the meeting, as is required by the Scheme.

7. Other Relevant Considerations

- 7.1 None in the context of this report.

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. Appendices to this report

11.1 Appendix A – Members' Allowances Comparisons – Leicestershire District Authorities (July 2008).

11.2 Appendix B – Members' Allowances Comparisons – Family Group Authorities (July 2008).

11.3 Appendix C – Councillors Allowances Paid - April 2007 to March 2008.

11.4 Appendix D – Officers Travel and Subsistence Scheme.

11.5 Appendix E – Letter from Cllr. F.G.H. Jackson to Independent Remuneration Panel – 08 August 2008.

11.6 Appendix F – Email from Cllr. P.N. Fox to Independent Remuneration Panel – 09 August 2008.

12. List of Background Papers

12.1 None.

The following Officer has been consulted (identified by ✓):

✓ Monitoring Officer