

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Meeting:	Independent Remuneration Panel
Date:	25 November 2008
Subject:	Review of Members' Allowances Scheme
Report of:	Democratic Services Manager
Status:	Public

1. Purpose of Report

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

2.	<u>Recommendation to Independent Remuneration Panel</u>
2.1	That the Independent Remuneration 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 the 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 At the meeting of the IRP held on 4 September 2008, the Panel were informed that a full review of the Members' Allowances Scheme was required following reappointment of the three Panel Members in May 2008.
- 6.2 Having discussed the review of the Scheme, the Panel requested for its next meeting that further information in respect of the following areas be presented:
- Roles of Chairmen/Vice-Chairmen of Scrutiny Commission in other authorities (in respect of positions in political groups) (attached at Appendix 1);

- Rates payable in respect of Members and Officers Travel and Subsistence Schemes (i.e. whether the rates payable to both are at the same level) (attached at Appendix 1);
- Functions/Responsibilities of Licensing and Regulatory Committees in other authorities; (attached at Appendices A1 to A10);
- Roles of Chairmen of Standards Committees in other authorities (attached at Appendices B1 to B10);
- Work of the Council's Older Persons Champion and Young Persons Champion (attached at Appendices C1 to C2);
- Level of non-taxable figure for flat mileage rate (as determined by Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs).

6.3 The Panel also made the following initial recommendations in respect of changes to the Scheme (to be reviewed at this meeting following receipt of information detailed at 6.2 above):

1. That no changes be made to the following Special Responsibility Allowances:
 - Leader of the Council;
 - Deputy Leaders of the Opposition;
 - Members of the Cabinet Executive (excluding Leader of the Council);
 - Chairman of Development Control Committee;
 - Vice-Chairman of Development Control Committee.
2. That the Deputy Leader of the Council payment be merged with the Deputy Leader Cabinet Executive Special Responsibility Allowance.
3. That no changes be made to the Dependent Carers Allowances.
4. That index linking of the Basic Allowance, Special Responsibility Allowances and Pensions, continues.

6.4 Any recommendations made by the Panel will be submitted to the meeting of Council to be held on 09 December 2008 for Council's consideration.

6.5 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 1 – Additional Members Allowances Information

11.2 Appendices A1 to A10 – Functions/Responsibilities of Licensing and Regulatory Committees.

11.3 Appendices B1 to B10 – Roles of Standards Committees/Chairmen.

11.4 Appendices C1 to C2 – Work of Older Persons Champion and Young Persons Champion.

12. List of Background Papers

12.1 None.