

## BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Independent Remuneration Panel</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>25 October 2010</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Review of Members' Allowances Scheme</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Democratic Services Manager</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Public</b>

### 1. **Purpose of Report**

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

<b>2.</b>	<b><u>Recommendation to Independent Remuneration Panel</u></b>
2.1	That the Independent Remuneration Panel considers what changes (if any) should be made to the Members' Allowances Scheme.
<b>3.</b>	<b><u>Reason for Decision Recommended</u></b>
3.1	A request was made at the Council meeting held on 25 February 2010 that a full review of the Members' Allowances Scheme be undertaken, and that any changes arising out of this review be implemented after the local elections in 2011.

### 4. **Forward Plan**

- 4.1 Not applicable.

### 5. **Key Decision**

- 5.1 Not applicable.

### 6. **Matters for Consideration**

#### Background

- 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 3 yearly full review of the Scheme was undertaken in November 2008.
- 6.2 Accordingly, the next full review was not due to be undertaken until late 2011.

However, at the Budget setting Council meeting held on 25 February 2010, Members requested that a full review of the Scheme be undertaken, and that any changes to the Scheme arising out of the review be implemented after the local elections taking place in May 2011 (minute reference 350 - 2009/2010 refers).

- 6.3 If the Panel agrees to undertake a full review now, the next full review will then be scheduled to take place in late 2013.

#### Review Documents

- 6.4 Following consultation with the Panel, the following documents were requested to aid the review:

- Current Members' Allowances Scheme – Appendix A;
- Schedule of Allowances Paid for 2009/2010 – Appendix B;
- Members' Allowances Comparisons Table – Appendix C
- NJC Local Government Salary Scales and Mileage Allowances 2009/2010 – Appendix D
- Blaby DC Salary Scales 2009/2010 – Appendix E
- Members' Meeting Attendance 18/05/10 to 06/10/10 – Appendix F
- Duration of Meetings held May 2009 to May 2010 – Appendix G

#### Members' Representations

- 6.5 All Members of Council were also written to asking for representations about the Scheme.
- 6.6 Cllr. P. N. Fox, Leader of the Labour Group on the Council, submitted the following statement:

*"Please inform the Panel that I have nothing to add to their deliberations other than the status quo should prevail until next year, and only after the new Council elections have been held and recorded."*

A letter was also submitted by Cllr. J. Blackwell, and is attached for reference at Appendix H.

### **7. Other Relevant Considerations**

- 7.1 If any recommendations about changes to the Scheme are agreed at this meeting, then they will be submitted to the meeting of Council to be held on 14 December 2010 for Council's consideration.
- 7.2 Any recommendations approved by Council in respect of the Members' Allowances Scheme will be published in the Council's Contact magazine or

the Leicester Mercury following the meeting, as is required by the Scheme.

**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 – Current Members' Allowances Scheme.

11.2 Appendix B – Schedule of Allowances Paid for 2009/2010.

11.3 Appendix C – Members' Allowances Comparisons Table.

11.4 Appendix D – NJC Local Government Salary Scales and Mileage Allowances 2009/2010.

11.5 Appendix E – Blaby DC Salary Scales 2009/2010.

11.6 Appendix F – Members' Meeting Attendance 18/05/10 to 06/10/10.

11.7 Appendix G – Duration of Meetings held May 2009 to May 2010.

11.8 Appendix H – Letter from Cllr. J. Blackwell.

**12. List of Background Papers**

12.1 None.