

CHESHIRE EAST

COUNCIL

Date of meeting: 2 April 2009
Report of: Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer
Title: Independent Remuneration Panel

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To enable the Council to receive and consider the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on the Members Allowances Scheme to apply from April 2009.

2.0 Decision Required

- 2.1 To consider the report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel and, if appropriate, to adopt the recommendations of the Panel on the Member Allowances Scheme to apply to the Council for 2009/10.

3.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs

- 3.1 There are no implications for Transition costs

4.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond

- 4.1 The annual estimated cost of Members Allowances based on the proposals in the report of the Remuneration Panel, is £1.4m [and this has been included in the 2009-10 Budget approved by Council in February](#). This estimate includes National Insurance, travel and subsistence and other oncosts. The projections will need to be kept under review in the light of the actual operating experience of the fully vested Council.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Council is empowered to pay a range of Allowances to Members in respect of their roles and responsibilities, but must appoint an Independent Remuneration Panel to offer advice and recommendations on the Allowances Scheme, prior to its adoption by the full Council. The report contains the required advice from the Remuneration Panel.

6.0 Risk Assessment

- 6.1 Consideration of the Panel's report enables the Council to adopt appropriate remuneration arrangements in compliance with the Members' Allowances Regulations 2003.

7.0 Background and Options

- 7.1 In order to make a Scheme of Member's Allowances for the vested Council, it was necessary for the Authority to appoint an Independent Remuneration Panel to consider and make recommendations on the Scheme's provisions.
- 7.2 Governance and Constitution Committee on 1 December 2008 formally appointed a Remuneration Panel of five independent persons. The Panel has met on six occasions, and has drafted its report on the Allowances arrangements for 2009/10. The Panel's report and recommendations were considered by Governance and Constitution Committee on 9 March, who resolved to advise Council to adopt them in full.
- 7.3 The Remuneration Panel has since met again on 19 March, to consider two outstanding aspects of the Scheme, namely whether Special Responsibility Allowance should be paid to the Cabinet Support Member posts; and also whether any co-optees allowance should be paid to co-opted and Independent Members of Committees. The Panel's recommendations are set out in the Addendum to this report.

8.0 Overview of Day One, Year One and Term One Issues

- 8.1 The need for a Scheme of Members Allowances is required for Day One, to apply for the whole of Year One and to form the basis of the Scheme thereafter.

9.0 Reasons for Recommendation

- 9.1 The Council is requested to consider the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel, and decide upon the adoption or otherwise of the Panel's recommendations for the Allowances Scheme.

For further information:

Portfolio Holder:
Officer: Mike Flynn, Governance Lead Officer
Tel No: 01244 972260
Email:

Background Documents:

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
Guidance on Consolidated Regulations for
Local Authority Allowances (July 2003)

Documents are available for inspection at

Legal and Democratic Services
Westfields
Sandbach: