

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Constitution Committee

Date of Meeting: 20th September 2012
Report of: Democratic and Registration Services Manager
Subject/Title: Special Responsibility Allowance: Local Service Delivery Committees for Crewe and Macclesfield

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The report gives details of the Independent Remuneration Panel's recommendations regarding the award of a Special Responsibility Allowance to the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the Local Service Delivery Committees for Crewe and Macclesfield.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 Constitution Committee is invited to consider the Independent Remuneration Panel's findings summarised in paragraph 11 and make recommendations to Council, including the effective date of any change.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 Before any changes can be made to the Scheme of Members' Allowances, Council must consider a report from its Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 3.2 In making its recommendations, the Independent Remuneration Panel took into consideration the current level of recompense for elected Members under Cheshire East Council's Scheme of Members' Allowances.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 All

6.0 Policy Implications

- 6.1 Any agreement to amend the allowances payable to elected Members will require alteration(s) to be made to Cheshire East Council's Scheme of Members' Allowances.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 Having considered the matter, the Independent Remuneration Panel is recommending that a Special Responsibility Allowance should be paid to the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the Local Service Delivery Committees for Crewe and Macclesfield for the period 2011/2012.
- 7.2 If the recommendation were to be approved, it would incur an actual cost to the budget of £6,600 rather than £13,200 (2x £5,600 and 2 x £1000) due to two of the proposed recipients having received Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) during 2011/2012 and in accordance with the Scheme of Members' Allowances no Member can be in receipt of more than one SRA. The additional costs can be met from within the Members' Allowances budget.

8.0 Legal Implications

- 8.1 The Council is empowered to pay a range of Allowances to its Members in respect of their roles and responsibilities but must, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, appoint an Independent Remuneration Panel to offer advice and make recommendations on the Members' Allowances Scheme to Council. This report contains the advice of the Panel.

9.0 Risk Management

- 9.1 Consideration of the report enables the Council to comply with the requirements of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 thereby reducing risk.

10.0 Background and Options

- 10.1 In keeping with the Government's localism agenda, Cheshire East Council established in May 2011, two Local Service Delivery Committees for Crewe and Macclesfield, to enable members in these non-parish Council areas to consider the implications for the transfer and devolution of local services.
- 10.2 Both Committees have dealt with detailed and complex issues during their first year; making recommendations and decisions in respect of local matters and this high level of responsibility is expected to continue to develop until such time as the Community Governance Reviews for Crewe and Macclesfield have been concluded.
- 10.3 In order to ensure that the work of the Committee is properly reflected, the Independent Remuneration Panel was invited to consider, whether Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) should be payable to the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen.

- 10.4 The Panel sought information relating to the workings and make up of the Committees and noted that, whilst both Committees had been reconstituted at Annual Council in May 2012, neither had met nor appointed a Chairman or Vice Chairman for this municipal year.
- 10.5 Mindful of this position, the Panel recommended that, in recognition of the work undertaken by the Committees, a Special Responsibility Allowance should be paid to the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the Local Service Delivery Committee (Crewe) and the Local Service Delivery Committee (Macclesfield), specifically the Chairmen's SRA to be equivalent to the lowest Chairman's SRA currently payable in the Scheme (0.5 basic equal to £5600 per annum) and, in line with payments to Vice Chairmen, an SRA of £1000 plus £50 per meeting chaired be awarded to the Vice Chairmen of the Committees for the municipal year 2011/2012 only.
- 10.6 Given that the Committees had not met during 2012, the Panel considered that any further award should be considered as part of the review of Members' Allowances currently being undertaken.

11.0 RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That -

- 11.1 a) A Special Responsibility Allowance be awarded to the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Local Service Delivery Committee (Crewe) and the Local Service Delivery Committee (Macclesfield), of £5,600 (Chairman) and £1,000 (Vice Chairman) for 2011/2012 in recognition of the work undertaken during the Committees' inaugural year and in line with the requirements of Cheshire East Council's Scheme of Members' Allowances which states that a Member can only be in receipt of one Special Responsibility Allowance; and
- b) The matter be included as part of the Independent Remuneration Panel's Review of the Scheme of Members' Allowances for 2012/2013 which will consider whether the posts merit the awarding of a Special Responsibility Allowance from 16 May 2012 onwards.

12.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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