

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT OF IRP

Underlying Principles

- *system of allowances should not discourage any social category from seeking to become a councillor, and ideally should act to encourage those groups currently under-represented to stand.
- *it should bear comparison with those in other authorities which have similar characteristics and responsibilities.
- *SRAs should reflect the level of responsibility associated with the role, rather than time spent carrying it out.
- *a proportion of the time spent by councillors on their duties should be regarded as voluntary, and hence not eligible for remuneration (typically 50%)
- * purely party political roles should not be eligible for SRAs. Some impact on the overall performance of the authority should always be demonstrable.
- *the nature of the responsibilities which qualify for allowances can be representative, governance, or corporate.
- *there will be a range of minor positions of responsibility in a local authority which should be regarded as part of normal duties, and hence not eligible for an SRA.
- *the proportion of councillors eligible for an SRA should ideally not be more than one third.
- *the job of an IRP is to make recommendations as to what allowances are merited in the light of the principles set out above. If the council wishes to take account of prevailing financial/budgetary circumstances, that is a matter for them, not the panel.
- *all allowances should be adjusted every year in line with an agreed index (e.g. retail price index) unless the council specifically decides to forego such the implied increase.