



meeting

**COUNTY COUNCIL**

date

18<sup>th</sup> May 2006

agenda item number

## **REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

### **AMENDMENTS TO MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME**

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

- 1.1 To make recommendations concerning proposed amendments to the current Members' Allowances Scheme.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1 The previous item on the agenda for this meeting of the County Council is concerned with the report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel appointed to consider matters in relation to the current Members' Allowances Scheme.

- 2.2 Having received the report, it is necessary for the Council to take decisions on the recommendations made. If those recommendations are supported, it will be necessary for the existing Scheme to be amended as set out below:-

- Special Responsibility Allowances – a revised Schedule 1 in the Scheme setting out new bands and amounts in respect of SRA roles (a copy is attached at Appendix A)
- amendments to part 2 of the existing Scheme to take account of the revised provision for the Statutory Co-optees on the Standards Committee (see Appendix B)
- in part 6 of the Scheme on Other Payments for Councillors, the deletion of existing paragraph 6.2 and its replacement with the following:-

“The County Council will arrange the installation, and meet the costs of the second telephone line or Broadband facility in Councillors' homes for the sole purpose of accessing the Council's IT facilities, either with equipment provided by the County Council, or using their own computers (subject to the agreement of the Head of IT in each case where the latter is required).”

- in the section on submission of claims in the appendix to the existing Scheme on Administrative Matters, the deletion of the final sentence of paragraph 4 and its replacement with the following:-

“Late claims will be determined by the Standards Committee.”

### **3. Statutory and Policy Implications**

- 3.1 Where such comments in relation to finance, equal opportunities, personnel, crime and disorder and service users are material, they have been brought out in the text of the report.

### **4. RECOMMENDED**

- 4.1 That, subject to the outcome of consideration of Agenda item X, the existing Members' Allowances Scheme be revised as set out above with such changes to take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2006.

**Roger Latham**  
**Chief Executive**

### **Legal Services Comments (PDH 090506)**

When exercising its function to adopt a scheme of allowances, the Council must have regard to the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

### **Director of Resources' Financial Comments**

The financial implications of the revised allowances are set out in the report earlier on the Agenda. The additional costs of the internet connections will have to be met from existing budgets (PH 9/5/06)

### **Background Papers available for Inspection**

None.

### **Electoral Divisions Affected**

All.

## **APPENDIX A**

### SCHEDULE 1

#### SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES

<b>Band</b>	<b>% of Leader's SRA</b>	<b>Amount of Allowance (p.a.)</b>	<b>Role</b>
1	100	£30,000	Leader of the Council
2	70	£21,000	Deputy Leader of the Council
3	66	£20,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cabinet Members with Portfolio</li><li>• Chief Whip of Majority Group (in respect of his/her management of County Council business)</li><li>• Leader of Minority Group (where the Group has at least 20% of the Council)</li></ul>
4	60	£18,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chair of Overview Scrutiny Committee</li></ul>
5	50	£15,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chairman of County Council*</li></ul>
6	40	£12,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3 Vice-Chairs of Overview Scrutiny Committee</li><li>• Chair of Joint Health Committee (when chaired by a County Councillor)</li></ul>
7	33	£10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chair of the following Committees:-<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Planning &amp; Licensing</li><li>- Appeals</li><li>- Audit</li><li>- Standards (whether an elected County Councillor or a Co-opted Independent Member)</li><li>- Pensions</li></ul></li><li>• Deputy Cabinet Members (without Portfolio)</li><li>• Assistant Whip of the Majority Group</li><li>• Leader of the third largest Group on the Council (provided the Group meets the statutory definition of a Group)**</li></ul>

<b>Band</b>	<b>% of Leader's SRA</b>	<b>Amount of Allowance (p.a.)</b>	<b>Role</b>
8	25	£7,500	Vice-Chairs of Scrutiny Committees "A", "B", "C", & Vice-Chair of Joint Health Committee (when this position occupied by a County Councillor)
9	24	£7,200	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vice-Chairman of the County Council*</li> <li>Chief Whip of the main Minority Group</li> </ul>
10	22	£6,600	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deputy Leader of the Minority Group</li> <li>Chair of the Administration Committee</li> <li>Vice-Chair of the Appeals and Planning and Licensing Committees</li> <li>Assistant Whip of the main Minority Group</li> <li>Group Secretary of the Majority Group</li> <li>Main Minority Group Spokespersons on Cabinet Portfolios</li> <li>Main Minority spokesperson on the Planning and Licensing Committee</li> </ul>
11	11	£3,300	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School Governors co-ordinator of the Main Minority Group</li> </ul>
12	4	£1,200	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group Whip of the second Minority Group</li> <li>Independent Member(s) of the Standards Committee</li> </ul>
12	4	£1,200	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ordinary Members of the Appeals Committee when undertaking work of exceptional frequency</li> </ul>

\* These SRAs include an element for clothing. Sections 3(5) and 5(4) (as appropriate) of Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1972, enable the County Council to make a reasonable payment to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to enable them to meet the expenses of their office.

\*\* Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel published on 15 September 2003.

**PART 2 - ALLOWANCES FOR STATUTORY CO-OPTees**  
(REVISED)

- 2.1** Subject to paragraphs 2.4 and 2.5, for each year the following allowances shall be paid to persons (other than Councillors) statutorily appointed to membership of the Council's Standards Committee and Overview and Scrutiny or Scrutiny Select Committees (Statutory Co-optees):-

Independent members of the Standards Committee – an allowance equivalent to band 11 SRA

Statutory co-optees appointed to Overview and Scrutiny or Scrutiny Select Committees - £546

**2.2 Chair of Standards Committee**

Where the chair of the Standards Committee is an independent member, s/he shall be entitled to receive an allowance equivalent to band 7 SRA

**2.3 Attendance Allowance**

No attendance allowance shall be payable under this scheme, either for Council duties per se, or in respect of appointments to outside bodies.

**2.4. Renunciation**

A Statutory Co-optee may by notice in writing given to the Chief Executive elect to forego any part of her/his entitlement to an allowance under this scheme.

**2.5. Part-year Entitlements**

Pro-rata payments of the Statutory Co-optees Allowance shall be paid in any of the following circumstances:-

- (a) If an amendment to this scheme changes the amount to which a Statutory Co-optee is entitled.
- (b) Where the term of office of a Statutory Co-optee begins or ends otherwise than at the beginning or end of a year.

## **2.6 Payment**

Payment of the allowances described in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 shall be made in equal instalments. The frequency of those instalments shall be monthly in arrears.

## **2.7 Travel and Subsistence Allowances**

Travel and subsistence allowances may be claimed by Statutory Co-optees. The arrangements for those allowances are included at Part 4 of this scheme and a description of the duties for which they may be claimed is shown at Schedule 2 to this scheme.