

<b>COUNCIL</b>	AGENDA ITEM No.7 (iv) (a)
<b>15 JULY 2009</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

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**REVIEW OF PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL'S MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME –  
REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES PANEL**

<b>R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S</b>	
<b>FROM : Independent Members Allowances Panel</b>	<b>Deadline date : N/A</b>
<p>Council is recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Note the recommendations of the Independent Members' Allowances Panel as set out in paragraph 3.1 below;</li> <li>2. Determine the action it wishes to take.</li> </ol>	

**1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The Council is required by law to have an Independent Members' Allowances Panel. The Panel met on 18 and 25 June 2009 respectively in order to review the current scheme and consider specific issues arising from the change in governance arrangements implemented by the new administration.

**2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

- 2.1 To consider the recommendations of the Independent Members Allowances Panel following its review of the Council's current Members' Allowances scheme.
- 2.2 All Members of the Council were invited to make written representations to the Panel and offered the opportunity to address the Panel in person. The Panel considered all of the representations that had been received. Details of the Panel's deliberations are attached at **Appendix A**.
- 2.3 The Council must 'have regard' to the Panel's recommendations but may then determine what action it wishes to take. The only element where the Council does not have any discretion is with regard to recommendations concerning membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

**3. RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM THE REVIEW**

- 3.1 The Panel's main recommendations are set out below:

3.1.1 Basic Allowance

- That the basic allowance for all Members (£7,832.68) should remain unchanged. This should include a telephone allowance of £559.44 and a travel allowance of £223.76, both of which should remain unchanged;

- That the scheme of allowances should continue to be updated annually for inflation by the use of the Local Government Associations' daily rate;
- That a fundamental review of the basic allowance be undertaken later in this financial year.

### 3.1.2 Special Responsibility Allowance (SRAs)

A revised range of SRAs be introduced specifically to support Cabinet Members, strengthen scrutiny and devolve decision making to Area Committees as follows:

	<b>Panel's Proposal:</b>
Cabinet Advisors	No payment recommended until expiry of a six month period pending evaluation of the role, then 50% of the Cabinet Member allowance (£7,050).
Chairmen of Scrutiny Commission for Health Issues and Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee (Chair of Chairs)	That the full basic allowance is payable.
Chairmen of the remaining three Scrutiny Committees and the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities	That 50% of the basic allowance be paid for the first six months pending evaluation of the new arrangements.
Vice Chairmen of Scrutiny Committees	That no SRA payment be awarded.
Area Committee Chairmen	That 50% of the basic allowance be paid to Chairmen for the first six months pending evaluation of the new arrangements.
Area Committee Vice Chairmen	That no SRA payment be awarded.

### 3.1.3 Political Group Management

	<b>Current provision:</b>	<b>Panel's Proposal:</b>
Group Leaders	Distributed on a pro-rata basis dependent on number of members in each group – basic allowance divided by number of members of the opposition group.	Group Leader's allowance to be paid <b>only</b> to the Leader of the controlling group and the major opposition group. Payment to be made on the current pro-rata basis.
Group Secretaries	Distributed on a pro-rata basis dependent on number of members in each group – 1500 divided by 57 and multiplied by number of members of the group.	That no payment be made to Group Secretaries.

3.14 Payment of Special Responsibility Allowances to Independent Members of the Standards Committee

	<b>Current provision:</b>	<b>Panel's Proposal:</b>
Parish Council Representatives	SRA paid to the Chairman and other independent members of the Committee, with the exception of Parish Council representatives.	Parish Council representatives on Standards Committee to receive SRA (£750)

3.15 Mayoral Allowances

	<b>Current provision:</b>	<b>Panel's Proposal:</b>
Mayor's Allowance	SRA (25% of basic) in recognition of role as Chair of Council meetings + Mayoral Allowance of which 80% is retained centrally to cover expenses and 20% paid in twelve equal instalments (direct payment)	Removal of SRA for Chairman of the Council. Increase the direct payment element of the existing Mayoral Allowance to £6,000 (of the £12,000 allowance) to cover aspects of 'personal' expenditure (to be clearly defined in the Constitution).

3.16 Car Parking Provision

The Panel has recommended (paragraph 3.1 above) that a fundamental review of basic allowances take place later this financial year. The issue of car parking provision for elected Members should take place as part of this review and be considered the same time as the Council considers changes to car parking provision for staff.

**3. CONSULTATION**

3.1 All Members were invited to make written representation to the Panel and offered the opportunity to address the Panel in person.

**4. IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 **Legal** - The legal implications are referred to within the report.

4.2 **Finance** – The Panel's recommendations, if fully implemented, would represent a net additional cost of £51,328 (25% increase in the SRA budget).

**5. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- Previous reports of the Independent Members' Allowances Panel - 2001 - 2007

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