

COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM No. 15(a)
7 December 2011	PUBLIC REPORT

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

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM : Independent Members' Allowances Panel	Deadline date : N/A
<p>Council is requested to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the recommendations of the Independent Members' Allowances Panel as summarised in paragraph 3 below; and 2. Determine the action it wishes to take in response to the recommendations contained within the report. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Council has a statutory requirement to establish and maintain an Independent Members' Allowances Panel, which will broadly have the functions of providing the local authority with advice on its scheme and the amounts to be paid. Local authorities must have regard to this advice.
- 1.2 The Panel met on three occasions during 2011 in order to review the current Members' Allowances scheme. This followed a decision of Council on 15th July 2009 that the Basic Allowance and Members' car parking be considered by the Panel once the joint review of staff and Members' car parking arrangements had been undertaken by the Council. Their report dated 31st October 2011 and attached as Appendix A, sets out their findings and recommendations.
- 1.3 All Members of the Council were invited to make representations to the Panel either in writing or in person.

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 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 recommends:

3.2 Basic Allowance

- That in future, the scheme of allowances be updated for inflation by the use of the NJC increase applied to staff pay;
- That the current basic allowance of £7,962.08 be increased to £9,000, (which includes an element of travel and telephone allowance as set out below).
- That the travel allowance of £227.45 within the basic allowance be rounded to £230.
- That the telephone allowance of £568.68 within the basic allowance is rounded to £570 and that all personal calls continue to be the responsibility of Members.

3.3 Special Responsibility Allowance (SRAs)

- That Members continue to be restricted to one SRA.
- That the Deputy Leader's SRA be reduced from 75% of the Leader to 65%.
- That the number of Cabinet SRA's be reduced by one at the earliest opportunity.
- That the multiplier for calculating Cabinet allowances be reduced from 2 x net basic to 1.5 net basic of the basic allowance.
- That the payment to Scrutiny Chairs be reduced from 1 x basic allowance to 0.75 net basic allowance.
- That SRA's payable to the three Chairs of Neighbourhood Committees be extended to seven Committees but that the level of payment to all Chairs of Neighbourhood Committees be set at 0.25 of the net basic allowance.
- That Regulatory Committee SRA's be kept in line with Scrutiny Committees.

3.4 Telephone Allocation

- That the Members' Allowances scheme be updated to record the entitlement of Members to be in receipt of an iphone.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 All Members were invited to make written representation to the Panel and offered the opportunity to address the Panel in person. The Panel has considered all submissions in detail.

5. IMPLICATIONS

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

5.2 **Finance** – The Panel's proposals would result in a £19,610.00 overspend against the current budget forecast but would be within current budget allocation. The budget for 2012/13 has not yet been determined.

6. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.