

Body: Council

Date: 20 April 2011

Subject: Members' Allowances Scheme – report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

Report of: Local Democracy Manager

Ward(s): All

Purpose: To advise the Council of the Independent Remuneration Panel's recommendations and determine changes to the Council's Allowances Scheme in the light of those recommendations.

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Recommendations:

- (1) Council is asked to consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel as set out in paragraph 2.2 below and make decisions regarding acceptance or otherwise of the Panel's recommendations.
 - (2) That the Local Democracy Manager be authorised to make the necessary amendments to the Council's Members' Allowances Scheme to give effect to decisions made in respect of the Panel's recommendations.
 - (3) That the members of the Panel be thanked for their work.
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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 It is a requirement of the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 as amended which govern the making and amendment of allowances schemes that an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) be established by the Council to review allowances and make recommendations to the Council.
- 1.2 This report has been written to accompany the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel that is being presented to the Council and reference should be made to that report for further information and detail. In brief, the Council must set up a Panel and must have regard to their

recommendations. No changes may be made to the allowances scheme unless the Panel have reported. The only exception is in relation to annual inflation adjustments and then only for up to 4 years without a Panel report.

- 1.3 Public notice was given to the Panel's recommendations in accordance with the Government's Regulations on 13 April 2011. The Panel's report is open for inspection and available to view of the Council's website.

2.0 Recommendations made by the Panel.

- 2.1 Under the regulations the Council is required to have regard to the advice of their Independent Remuneration Panel. The phrase "...shall have regard to the recommendations made..." is used in the regulations. Should the Council wish to implement arrangements not fully in accordance with the Panel's recommendations they will need to give compelling reasons for doing so. In addition it should be noted that details of any variations between the Panel's recommendations and the Council's final decision must be reported in a public notice to be placed in a local newspaper. It is open to the Council to change the implementation date to one later than 20 April or to backdate to 1 April 2011.

2.2 The recommendations of the Panel are set out in full below:-

- 2.2.1 (1) That child care and dependants' carers' allowances are increased to £8 (basic rate) and £12 (specialist care rate) with effect from 20 April 2011 and that paragraph 5.2 of the current allowances scheme, which provides for an upper limit on the total amount an individual councillor can claim in the year in respect of carers' allowances is removed from the scheme.
- (2) That car mileage travel rates be increased to 45p with effect from 20 April 2011 to reflect the change in AMAP.
- (3) That all other allowances (basic, special responsibility, co-optees, information technology and subsistence allowances) remain unchanged for 2011/12.
- (4) That a further review of the allowances scheme is undertaken in 2012 having regard to potential changes in member structures and councillors' workloads as a consequence of initiatives such as the Localism Bill and the Council's sustainable service delivery strategy.
- (5) That pending the further review recommended at (4) above, the annual adjustment provisions of the allowances scheme, by which allowances are normally increased on 1 April each year in line with an approved index, are suspended (noting that any adjustments to allowances implemented as a consequence of that further review, can, if desired, be backdated to 1 April 2012).

- 2.3 Full findings and reasons are given in the Panel's report. A copy of a summary of the payment rates under the current allowances scheme is attached for information (appendix 1). The full scheme as currently approved can be viewed at <http://www.eastbourne.gov.uk/council/councillors/allowances/>

3.0 Consultations

- 3.1 Details of consultations undertaken by the Panel are given in the Panel's report. These were limited to questionnaires to councillors and comments made by councillors in a series of interviews.

4.0 Resource implications

- 4.1 These will be minimal and can be accommodated within the existing allowances budget. The increase in car mileage rate to 45p per mile will add approximately £25 to the total amount claimed in a year based on claims made in 2010/11. No councillor currently claims child care and dependants' carers' allowance. The current budget of £500 is intended as a 'notional' budget only and if claims are made that exceed this budget an adjustment will need to be made in the future.

5.0 Other implications - Equalities

- 6.1 The scheme as a whole is intended to assist the objective of overcoming any financial and other disincentive that an individual might experience in being a councillor and encourage persons from all sections of the community to become and remain councillors.
- 6.2 The Panel have given consideration to the subject of equalities in their report.

David Robinson
Local Democracy Manager

Background Papers

The background papers to this report are as follows:

1. Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel of 8 April 2011.

To view the above please contact David Robinson at the Town Hall, Grove Road, Eastbourne. Telephone 415022 or e-mail david.robinson@eastbourne.gov.uk

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Extract from the Members' Allowances Scheme

Schedule 1

Amounts of basic, special responsibility, co-optees, child care and dependant carers' allowances

(Applicable for the period 1 April 2011 until 31 March 2012)

Basic allowance (payable to all 27 Councillors):- **£2,559**
(total (full year) amount £69,093)

Special responsibility allowances:-

	£	No	Full Year Total £
Mayor	2,559	1	2,559
Deputy Mayor	1,278	1	1,278
Leader of the Council	3,840	1	3,840
Deputy Leader of the Council	2,559	1	2,559
Other Cabinet Member	2,559	4	10,236
Chairman of Planning Committee	1,920	1	1,920
Member of Planning Committee	1,278	7	8,946
Reserve Member of Planning Committee	639	4	2,556
Chairman of Licensing Committees	1,278	1	1,278
Chairman of Scrutiny Committee	1,278	1	1,278
Leader of the Largest Opposition Group	1,920	1	1,920
Deputy Leader of the Largest Opposition Group	1,278	1	1,278
	Total:	24	39,648

Chairman of a Licensing Sub-Committee	85	*	*
Ordinary Member of a Licensing Sub-Committee	56	*	*

* *The number and total amount will be dependant on the number of Sub-Committees that are established in the course of the year. See paragraph 3.4 of the Scheme for special rules relating to the payment of these allowances. This allowance is not payable to the Chairman of the Licensing Committees.*

Co-optees allowances:-

Independent member and Chairman of the Standards Committee - up to £3,604 per annum (at a daily rate of £180.20 for a maximum of 20 days per annum)
Other independent members of the Standards Committee - up to £2,980 per annum (at a daily rate of £149.00 for a maximum of 20 days per annum)

Child care and dependant carers' allowances:-

Up to £5.39 per hour (basic care rate) and up to £9.72 per hour (specialist care rate) (*N.B. IRP recommendation to increase to £8 and £12 respectively*)

Information technology allowance:-

£389 per annum for eligible Councillors

Schedule 3

Amounts of travel and subsistence allowances

(Applicable for the period 1 April 2011 until 31 March 2012)

Note: Travel and subsistence allowances are only payable in respect of qualifying duties undertaken outside the Borough.

Travel:

by private motor vehicle

car	40p*	per mile
supplement for passengers	5p	per mile for each passenger up to 4 in total who are either Eastbourne Borough Council members or employees
by motorcycle	24p	per mile

by bicycle 20p per mile

(*N.B. IRP recommendation to increase to 45p)

Day subsistence:

Meal	Restrictions	An amount not exceeding
Breakfast	4 hours or more away from home, starting before 7.30 am	£6.48
Lunch	4 hours or more away from home, including the period 12 noon to 2 pm	£8.64
Tea	4 hours or more away from home, ending after 6.30 pm	£4.04
Evening meal	Either: 4 hours or more away from home, ending after 8.30 pm; Or: When taken as part of an overnight stay	£16.19 £37.78

Overnight subsistence:

(for bed and breakfast)

Amount to be agreed by the Head of Strategy and Democracy and shall take account of the location of the accommodation, availability and the needs of the member concerned. Normally the type of accommodation selected should be within the "budget" class whilst offering en-suite facilities with shower.

Receipts or other proof that expenditure has been incurred should always be provided in support of any claims.

