



**Cabinet recommendations for consideration by Council
at the Meeting of the Council on Thursday, 19 July 2012**

Cabinet – 30 May 2012

25 Independent Remuneration Panel – Members’ Allowances

The Cabinet considered Report No 95/12 relating to a proposal to undertake a review of the implementation of recommended increases in members’ allowances for the financial year 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013

The Council’s Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) had conducted a full review of members’ allowances in November 2010 in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members’ Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

Councillors had been presented with the recommendations of the IRP and, at a meeting of full Council on 16 February 2011, Council had resolved that the recommended increases in members’ allowances be not implemented during the financial year 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012 and that a review of such implementation be undertaken prior to the start of the financial year 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013.

Since May 2011, a change to legislation had required the Council to change its executive arrangements following which, from 5 May 2011, it Council had been operating under the ‘Strong Leader’ and Cabinet model. Under the new arrangements, the person elected as Leader of the Council was required to appoint one of the members of Cabinet to be his/her deputy.

The Council’s IRP had been requested to convene in December 2011 to consider a level of Special Responsibility Allowance for the role of Deputy Leader of the Council in light of the change in legislation.

At its meeting in December 2011, the IRP had concluded that, whilst the input and expertise from the Non-Lead Councillors may be extremely helpful, the Special Responsibility Allowance for that role should be deleted. However, following a request from the Council, the Panel had reconvened on 9 February 2012 to reconsider that recommendation and had decided

that the Non-Lead Councillor role should be paid an allowance equal to 20% of the Leader's allowance.

The then Leader of the Council had asked that the IRP review the level of Special Responsibility Allowance for the role of Chair of the Council as part of the review undertaken in December 2011.

Agreed rates were usually index linked. In November 2010, the IRP had recommended that both the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances continue to be revised annually in line with the Retail Price Index. However, following its review in December 2011, the IRP had recommended to Council '...that rather than using the Retail Price Index, allowances be increased annually in line with the staff pay award'.

Appendix C to the Report set out two tables of the Basic and all Special Responsibility Allowances currently payable, along with those recommended by the IRP. There were two models namely:

- Model 1 which showed the combined effect of all the IRP recommendations ie those from 2010 (which Council, in February 2011, had decided to defer pending the later review) and 2011/12; and
- Model 2 which showed the combined effect of the IRP recommendations from 2011/12 only.

The table set out in paragraph 16 of the Report summarised the impact of implementing each of the two models.

Recommended:

25.1 That, having taken account of the Reports and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel dated November 2010 and December 2011 (as amended in March 2012), as set out at Appendices A and B to Report No 95/12 in respect of Members' Allowances, Council adopts the allowances as set out in Model 2 as detailed in paragraph 16 of the Report and implements them with effect from the date of the forthcoming Meeting of the Council namely, 19 July 2012.

CHLDS (to note)

Reasons for the Decision:

To comply with changes introduced by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 which required the Council to change its executive arrangements from May 2011.

To comply with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 which requires the Council to pay due regard to the recommendations of its Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP).

† *Councillors are requested to bring with them to the meeting Report No 95/12 which was circulated with the agenda papers for the meeting of the Cabinet on 30 May 2012. If you require a further copy of the document please contact Trevor Hayward, Committee Officer, on e-mail trevor.hayward@lewes.gov.uk or telephone 01273 484122*