

To: Members of the Council

Date: 3 July 2012

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

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Dear Councillor

COUNCIL - THURSDAY 5TH JULY, 2012

I refer to the agenda for the above meeting and now enclose the following report(s) which were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

Agenda No.	Item
10.	Standards Regime at Sefton Council (Pages 129 - 132) Supplementary report of the Head of Corporate Legal Services
11.	Scheme of Members Allowances (Pages 133 - 136) Revised Scheme of Members Allowances attached

Yours sincerely,

M. CARNEY

Chief Executive

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Report to: Council **Date of Meeting** 5 July 2012

Subject: Standards Regime at Sefton – Supplementary Report

Report of: Head of Corporate Legal Services **Wards Affected: All**

Is this a Key Decision? No **Is it included in the Forward Plan?** No

Exempt/Confidential No

Purpose/Summary

This supplementary report provides details of the recommendations of the Standards Committee and Audit and Governance Committee on the issues set out in the previous report circulated with the agenda for the Council meeting and the details of the Independent Persons to be appointed to the Audit and Governance Committee.

Recommendation(s)

The Council is requested to consider the following revised recommendations:

1. To note that the Code of Conduct as set out in Appendix C of the report previously circulated, was adopted by the Council on 12 April 2012, subject to a further review of the administration of Standards in Sefton being undertaken within six months of their introduction and being re-considered by the Council;
2. To agree that a working party be drawn from the Audit & Governance Committee as opposed to the Standards Committee as set out in Resolution 6 of the Council meeting held on 12 April 2012. (Paragraph 1(6) of the report previously circulated refers);
3. To agree to the appointment of Mr J. Fraser and Mr E. Davies as the Independent Persons in accordance with the transitory regulations for the period ending no later than 30 June 2013;
4. To agree to the additional Terms of Reference for Audit and Governance Committee as shown at Appendix D of the report previously circulated; and
5. To approve the appointment of a Parish Council representative and substitute representative (appointed by the Sefton Area Partnership Of Local Councils) as a co-opted member of the Audit and Governance Standards Sub Committees, to enable him/her to be involved in the consideration of any complaints submitted in respect of the conduct of any Parish Councillor within the Borough of Sefton.

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1. Introduction/Background

1.1 Standards Committee

The Standards Committee considered the update report on the Standards Regime at its meeting held on 19 June 2012 and resolved: That:

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the Council be requested to give approval to the appointment of a Parish Council Representative and Substitute Representative (appointed by the Sefton Area Partnership Of Local Councils) as a Co-opted Member of the Audit and Governance Standards Sub Committees, to enable him/her to be involved in the consideration of any complaints submitted in respect of the conduct of any Parish Councillor within the Borough of Sefton; and
- (3) the Audit and Governance Committee be requested to give due regard to the Codes of Conduct implemented by other Merseyside local authorities and joint authorities in due course.

1.2 Audit and Governance Committee

Audit and Governance Committee also considered the update report on the Standards Regime at its meeting held on 27 June 2012 and resolved: That:

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) it be noted that a further review and research would be undertaken of the codes of conduct adopted elsewhere and within Merseyside, within the current municipal year and be submitted to this Committee and the Council for consideration;
- (3) the Council be recommended to approve the additional terms of reference for this Committee as set out in Appendix D of the report; and
- (4) the Council be recommended to give approval to the appointment of a Parish Council representative and substitute representative (appointed by the Sefton Area Partnership Of Local Councils) as a co-opted member of the Audit and Governance Standards Sub Committees, to enable him/her to be involved in the consideration of any complaints submitted in respect of the conduct of any Parish Councillor within the Borough of Sefton.

1.3 Independent Persons

The introduction of the transitory regulations concerning the appointment of independent persons means that the existing serving independent members can now be appointed as independent persons for a period of up to twelve months. Following this, the Council must appoint individuals who have essentially had no prior involvement with the authority as an officer, member or independent member in the last five years. The Standards Committee at an earlier meeting had expressed concern about loss of experience and knowledge that the independent

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members had gained. The transitory regulations effectively allow for a hand over period between the independent persons appointed by virtue of the transitory regulations and the decision in the future to appoint brand new independent persons. It is proposed that Mr J. Fraser and Mr E. Davies be appointed as the Independent Persons in accordance with the transitory regulations for the period ending no later than 30 June 2013.

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MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME

The following scheme is made under powers conferred by – Section 174 of the Local Government Act 1972 – Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003

1.1. The scheme shall be cited as the Sefton Council Members' Allowances Scheme and have effect from 15th May 2012, and for subsequent years commencing on 1st April.

1.2. In this Scheme, "Councillor" means a Member of Sefton Council who is a Councillor.

2. Basic Allowance

2.1. The Basic Allowance is a flat rate sum paid to all Members. It recognises the time devoted and expenses incurred by Members in carrying out their duties.

2.2. Subject to paragraph 4 the amount allocated per annum is £8,520

3. Special Responsibility Allowance

3.1 In order to recognise additional time and expenses incurred by Councillor's who have significant additional responsibilities in carrying out their duties for Sefton Council, subject to paragraph 4 the following Special Responsibility Allowances shall be paid: Only one Special Responsibility Allowance is paid per Member.

Leader of the Council	£25,560
Other Members of the Cabinet	£17,040
Chair of Planning Committee	£8,520
Chairs of Overview & Scrutiny Committees	£4,260
Chair of Licensing and Regulatory Committee	£8,520
Chair of Audit and Governance Committee	£4,260
Political Group Leaders	£4,260

4. Part Year Payments

If in the course of a year, the scheme is amended or a Councillor becomes, or ceases to be a Councillor, then all allowances shall be adjusted on a pro-rata basis.

5. Renunciation

A Councillor may, by giving notice in writing to the Head of Corporate Finance & Information Services elect to forgo any part of their entitlements to an allowance under the Scheme.

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6. Mayoral Allowances

The allowance paid to the Mayor is linked to the Scheme of Members' Allowances and for the Municipal year 2012/2013 the following shall be paid:

Mayor £12,780

7. Travel and Subsistence

Travel and Subsistence Allowances will be paid for travel to meetings etc outside of the borough which are authorised by the Council e.g. -

- meetings and annual conferences of Outside Bodies to which Sefton has made appointments or nominations.
- meetings and annual conferences of Local Authority Associations of which Sefton is a member.
- meetings, conferences and other duties which have been authorised in advance by the Council, Cabinet or by a Cabinet Member

8. Claims and Payments

Payments shall be made in respect of Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances in monthly instalments on the 15th day of each month by bank transfer.

All claims for additional expenses must be accompanied by receipts and will therefore be paid in arrears directly into Members Bank Accounts.

APPENDIX A

Outside Bodies Approved by the Cabinet and Council

Local Government Association – General Assembly
Local Government Association – Urban Commission
Local Government Association – Coastal Issues Special Interest Group

Joint Authorities:

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority
Merseyside Integrated Transport Authority
Merseyside Police Authority
Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority

Aintree University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Ashton Memorial Fund, Formby
British Destinations
Clarence High School, Freshfield – Governing Body
Community Foundation for Merseyside
Consolidated Charities of Thomas Brown & Marsh Dole
Formby Pool Trust – Board
Frank Hornby Trust
Halsall Educational Foundation
John Gooses Charity, Lydiate
Joint Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee
Joint Overview and Scrutiny – Cheshire and Merseyside Vascular Service Review
Liverpool City Region Cabinet
Liverpool City Region Child Poverty and Life Chances Commission
Liverpool City Region Employment and Skills Board
Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership Board
Liverpool John Lennon Airport Consultative Committee
Local Solutions
Mersey Forest Steering Group
Mersey Port Health Committee
Merseyside Pensions Fund Pensions Committee
Merseyside Playing Fields Association
Merseyside Police Authority Appointments Committee
Merseyside Strategic Transportation Committee
Merseyside Third Sector Technology Centre (3TC)
North West Reserve Forces and Cadets Association
North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
North Western Local Authorities Employers' Organisation
One Vision Housing Board
PATROL Adjudication Joint Committee (Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London)
Peterhouse School, Southport – Governing Body
REECH Steering Group (Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Housing)
Sefton Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Sefton Coast Partnership Board
Sefton Council for Voluntary Service
Sefton Cycling Forum
Sefton Education/Business Partnership
Sefton Equality Standing Group
Sefton New Directions Limited Board

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Senior Sports Council

Southport Pier– Board of Trustees

St Mary's College, Crosby – Governing Body

Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education (SACRE)

Transpennine Trail Members' Steering Group

University of Liverpool Court