



MEETING: INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL
DATE: Wednesday 16th March, 2011
TIME: 10.00 am
VENUE: Southport Town Hall, Lord Street, Southport

Member

Canon Roger Driver
Steve Dickson
Mrs. S. Lowe

COMMITTEE OFFICER: Paul Fraser
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The Cabinet is responsible for making what are known as Key Decisions, which will be notified on the Forward Plan. Items marked with an * on the agenda involve Key Decisions

A key decision, as defined in the Council's Constitution, is: -

- any Executive decision that is not in the Annual Revenue Budget and Capital Programme approved by the Council and which requires a gross budget expenditure, saving or virement of more than £100,000 or more than 2% of a Departmental budget, whichever is the greater
- any Executive decision where the outcome will have a significant impact on a significant number of people living or working in two or more Wards

If you have any special needs that may require arrangements to facilitate your attendance at this meeting, please contact the Committee Officer named above, who will endeavour to assist.

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AGENDA

Items marked with an * involve key decisions

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Subject/Author(s)</u>	<u>Wards Affected</u>
1.	Election of Chair	
2.	Declarations of Interest Members and Officers are requested to give notice of any personal or prejudicial interest and the nature of that interest, relating to any item on the agenda in accordance with the relevant Code of Conduct.	
3.	Minutes Minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2010	(Pages 5 - 8)
4.	Members' Allowance Scheme (1) to commence the review of Members' Allowances for 2012/13; and (2) to receive a presentation on the differing roles and work of Councillors, i.e. Cabinet Member, Spokesperson, Committee Chair, backbencher, appointees on outside bodies etc.	

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INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

MEETING HELD AT THE BOOTLE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 14TH DECEMBER, 2010

PRESENT: Canon Roger Driver (in the Chair)
Steve Dickson and Susan Lowe.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Brodie-Browne, Fairclough and Parry
Mr. M. Martin and Ms. V. Swale
Corporate Finance and Information Services
Department
Mr. D. McCullough, Interim Head of Corporate Legal
Services
Ms. A. Grant and Mr. P. Fraser
Chief Executive's Department

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED:

That Canon R.Driver be appointed Chair of the Panel for this meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2009 be confirmed as a correct record.

4. PRESENTATION ON COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL POSITION

The Panel received a presentation by Mr. M. Martin, from the Corporate Finance and Information Services Department that updated on the Council's financial position.

Mr. Martin detailed the Council's estimated budget shortfall and assumptions made in June 2010; the Council's estimated budget shortfall (£68 million - 2011/12 - 2014/15) and assumed positions following the Comprehensive Spending Review in October 2010; that due to 'frontloading', the Council was required to save £38.1 million in 2011/12; and that it was anticipated that if Council on 16 December 2010 approved all the savings options identified so far, then the Council would need to identify a further £8.2 million to hit the 2011/12 savings target.

Mr. Martin concluded by advising the Panel of the Government formula grant cuts announced on 13 December 2010; that Sefton had received no

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Transitional Grant; and that the Council was still awaiting a decision from the DCLG on proposals to capitalise general redundancy costs of £8 million.

Panel members sought advice on the level of the Members' Allowance budget; salary capping for staff; and the public sector pay freeze.

The Chair, Canon R. Driver, requested that the method of reaching a decision on the recent 5% cut in the Special Responsibility Allowance be recorded in the Minutes, namely, that informal consultation was undertaken with Panel Members via e-mail and then the decision was subsequently approved by both the Cabinet and Council at their meetings held on 5 August and 2 September 2010 respectively.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Mr. Martin be thanked for his presentation; and
- (2) the decision making process relating to the 5% cut in Special Responsibility Allowances made earlier this year be noted.

5. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME

Following on from the presentation referred to in Minute No. 4 above, the Panel and the political group representatives discussed whether the proposed review of the Scheme of Members' Allowances should commence in the current financial year or be deferred for a period of time.

Panel Members sought the views of the Group Leader / representatives on the review following which the elected Members left the meeting to enable the Panel Members to undertake their deliberations.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) in order to show leadership during the current harsh economic times, the Cabinet / Council be recommended to reduce the Basic Allowance by 5%, such reduction to take effect from the commencement of the financial year 2011/12. This would restore the discrepancies in the multipliers used to calculate the Special Responsibility Allowances;
- (2) a meeting of the Panel be held at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 16 March 2011 at Southport Town Hall;
 - (i) to commence the review of Members' Allowances for 2012/13; and
 - (ii) in order to formulate an objective view of the Members' Allowance scheme, to receive a presentation on the differing roles and work of Councillors, i.e. Cabinet Member,

Spokesperson, Committee Chair, backbencher, appointees
on outside bodies etc;

- (3) a meeting of the Panel be held at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 7 September 2011 at Bootle Town Hall to:
 - (i) formulate recommendations for submission to the Council on the Members' Allowance scheme for 2012/13; and
 - (ii) receive a presentation from the Head of Corporate Finance and Information Services on the up to date financial position of the Council; and
- (4) the decision making model referred to above, namely that the Panel meets in March and September, be continued in subsequent years.

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