



MEETING: STANDARDS COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday 3rd February, 2011

TIME: 10.00 am

VENUE: Town Hall, Southport

Member

Councillor  
Blackburn  
Brady  
Fairclough  
Hill  
Howe  
Papworth

Substitute

Councillor  
Tonkiss  
Moncur  
Maher  
D Rimmer  
Fenton  
Mclvor

Independent Members: Mr. N. Edwards (Chair), Mr Edward Davies (Vice-Chair) and Mr. J. Fraser

Parish Council Member Parish Councillor Mrs Beryl O'Brien and Parish Councillor D Warren

COMMITTEE OFFICER: Steve Pearce  
Head of Committee and Member Services  
Telephone: 0151 934 2046  
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E-mail: [steve.pearce@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:steve.pearce@sefton.gov.uk)

**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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# **A G E N D A**

1. Apologies for Absence
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 of Previous Meeting (Pages 5 - 6)  
Minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2010
4. Members' Allowances (Pages 7 - 14)  
Report of the Director of Corporate Services

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THESE MINUTES ARE NOT SUBJECT TO CALL IN.

## STANDARDS COMMITTEE

### MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, SOUTHPORT ON 18 NOVEMBER 2010

PRESENT: Councillor Mr. N. Edwards (in the Chair)  
Councillor Mr Edward Davies (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Blackburn, Brady, Hill, Howe,  
Mr. J. Fraser and  
Parish Councillor Mrs Beryl O'Brien

#### **7. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fairclough and Papworth and Parish Councillor Warren.

#### **8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

#### **9. MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2010 be confirmed as a correct record.

#### **10. LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN'S ANNUAL LETTER AND REPORT 2009/10**

The Committee considered the report of the Acting Head of Corporate Legal Services which incorporated a copy of the Local Government Ombudsman's Annual Letter and Report detailing the complaints about the Council submitted to the Ombudsman during 2009/10.

RESOLVED:

That the Local Ombudsman's Annual Letter and Report be noted.

#### **11. ABOLITION OF STANDARDS FOR ENGLAND**

The Acting Head of Corporate Legal Services gave a presentation on the proposals announced by the Government for the publication of a Decentralisation and Location Bill in Autumn which would include the abolition of the Standards Board regime, the implementation of a revised Code of Conduct for Elected Members and the Publication of Members Interests.

# Agenda Item 3

STANDARDS COMMITTEE- THURSDAY 18TH NOVEMBER, 2010

He reported that in anticipation of the proposed Bill, the details of Members Financial and Other Interests were being inputted on to the Council's Committee Management System and published on the Council's website.

He also reported on the proposals set out in the Bribery Act 2010 which would come into effect in April 2011.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the presentation be noted; and
- (2) the Acting Head of Legal Services submit a detailed report on the proposals in the Decentralisation and Localism Bill following the publication of the Bill in due course.

# Agenda Item 4

**REPORT TO:** Standards Committee  
Cabinet  
Council

**DATE:** 3 February 2011  
17 February 2011  
3 March 2011

**SUBJECT:** Members' Allowances

**WARDS  
AFFECTED:** All

**REPORT OF:** Director of Corporate Services

**CONTACT  
OFFICER:** Mike Fogg  
0151 934 4082

**EXEMPT/  
CONFIDENTIAL:** No

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY:**

To consider the proposals put forward by the Independent Remuneration Panel for a reduction in the 2011/12 Scheme of Members' Allowances.

**REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:**

In order to achieve savings on the Members' Allowances budget

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

1. That the recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel in 2.2 be accepted.
2. That the changes be implemented with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011.
3. That the proposed Scheme of Members Allowances at Annex A be accepted
4. That the Independent Remuneration Panel be asked to formally review the full Scheme during 2011/12.

# Agenda Item 4

**KEY DECISION:** No

**FORWARD PLAN:** No

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

The alternative is to continue with the existing scheme.

**IMPLICATIONS:**

**Budget/Policy Framework:** The proposals represent an annual saving in the order of £50,865 (inc on costs) pa

**Financial:**

<b><u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u></b>	<b>2009 2010 £</b>	<b>2010/ 2011 £</b>	<b>2011/ 2012 £</b>	<b>2012/ 2013 £</b>
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<b><u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u></b>				
<b>Gross saving</b> in Revenue Expenditure			<b>£50,865</b>	
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N		When?		
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

**Legal:**

**Risk Assessment:** No specific risk assessment has been carried out, but the risks associated with the report are already being addressed as part of the Council's approach to risk management.

**Asset Management:**



**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS  
LEADERS**

**CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:**

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community		√	
2	Creating Safe Communities		√	
3	Jobs and Prosperity		√	
4	Improving Health and Well-Being		√	
5	Environmental Sustainability		√	
6	Creating Inclusive Communities		√	
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	√		
8	Children and Young People		√	

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT**

Report of the findings of the Independent Remuneration Panel 2007

# Agenda Item 4

## 1. Background

- 1.1 In September 2007, following recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel, the Council revised its Scheme of Members' Allowances to reflect the average rate of Basic Allowance for Merseyside, and recommended that a fundamental review should be carried out in 2010/11.
- 1.2 Until 2009/10, the allowances were increased annually linked to the Local Government Annual Pay Settlement. No such increases were awarded in 2010/11, which in effect mirrored the situation with Senior Officers of the Council.
- 1.3 Following Council approval, the Special Responsibility Allowances paid to certain Member were reduced by 5% with effect from September 2010. This saved £14,800 (including on costs) in 2010/11 and would save £25,400 (including on costs) in 2011/12.
- 1.4 The proposals were also applied to the payments for Mayoralty duties, which although not part of the Scheme are linked to it.

## 2. Current Position

- 2.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel met on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2010 to consider if it was appropriate in view of the Council's current financial position, to defer the pending review of the Members' Allowances Scheme.
- 2.2 The Independent Remuneration Panel made the following recommendations:
  - “(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 responsibility of functions and volume of work of Cabinet Member portfolios and Committees and any changes made due to the recently announced Localism Bill;
  - (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

# Agenda Item 4

- (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.
- 2.3 The proposals put forward by the Independent Remuneration Panel would generate total budget savings in 2011/12 of £50,865 including “on costs”. The proposed changes are reflected in the proposed revised Scheme at Annex A.

### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 That the recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel in 2.2 above be accepted.
- 3.2 That the changes be implemented with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011.
- 3.3 That the proposed Scheme of Members Allowances at Annex A be accepted
- 3.4 That the Independent Remuneration Panel be asked to formally review the full Scheme during 2011/12.

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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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011, and for subsequent years commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> 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:

Leader of the Council	£25,560
Party Leaders (with Cabinet position)	£21,300
Other Members of the Cabinet	£17,040
Chair of Planning Committee	£8,520
Chairs of Scrutiny and Review Committees	£4,260
Chair of Licensing and Regulatory Committee	£8,520
Chair of Audit and Governance Committee	£4,260
Party Spokespersons for Cabinet & Planning Portfolio	£4,260
Waste Disposal Authority - Spokesperson	£2,130
Waste Disposal Authority - Chair	£8,520

### **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 notice in writing given to the Finance Director elect to forgo any part of their entitlements to an allowance under the Scheme.

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### 6. Mayoral Allowances

The allowances paid to the Mayor and Deputy are linked to the Scheme of Members Allowances and for the Municipal year 2010/11, (with effect from 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2010) the following shall be paid:

Mayor	£12,780
Deputy Mayor	£ 4,260

### 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 in consultation with party spokespersons and to which representatives of more than one political party have been invited.

### 8. Claims and Payments

Payments shall be made in respect of Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances in monthly instalments on the 15<sup>th</sup> 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.