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Sefton Council 

MEETING: INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

(PLEASE NOTE: THIS MEETING IS NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC TO ATTEND)

DATE: Thursday 4th June, 2015

TIME: 11.00 am

VENUE: Town Hall, Bootle

Member

Mr. E. Davies
Mr. J. Fraser
Mrs. S. Lowe

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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 are requested to give notice of any disclosable pecuniary interest, which is not already included in their Register of Members' Interests and the nature of that interest, relating to any item on the agenda in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct, before leaving the meeting room during the discussion on that particular item.	
3.	Minutes of Previous Meeting Minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2015	(Pages 5 - 8)
4.	Special Responsibility Allowances Report of the Head of Governance and Civic Services	All Wards (Pages 9 - 16)

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INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, BOOTLE ON WEDNESDAY 14TH MAY, 2014

PRESENT: Canon Roger Driver (in the Chair)
Mr. E. Davies and Mr. J. Fraser

8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

9. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Mrs. Susan Lowe.

10. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2013 be confirmed as a correct record.

11. MATTERS ARISING

In connection with Minute No. 5 (2) (relating to the review of the dependent's carers' allowance) Andrea Watts, Head of Governance and Civic Services advised that the new allowance came into force on 1 May 2014.

In connection with Minute No. 6 (2) (ii) (relating to consultation on the issue of elected Members' pensions) Andrea Watts, Head of Governance and Civic Services advised that she had liaised with the Cabinet Member – Corporate Services and Performance on this matter. The Cabinet Member requested that consultations be undertaken with Sefton's Members once the outcome of the Government's national consultation exercise was released. However, Regulations were laid before Parliament on 10 March 2014 under the negative resolution arrangements that abolished taxpayer-funded pensions for Councillors and therefore a decision on this matter had been taken. Accordingly, there was nothing to consult Members on. (Minute No. 12 refers to this issue).

12. UPDATE ON ELECTED MEMBERS' MEMBERSHIP OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME

Further to Minute No. 6 (2)(i) of the meeting held 14 October 2014 the Panel considered a Ministerial Statement, dated 11 March 2014, from Brandon Lewis MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Communities and Local Government, on the Local Government Pension Scheme affecting local authority elected Members.

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The Statement indicated that a statutory consultation had been undertaken between April and July 2013 on the Government's intention to abolish taxpayer-funded pensions for Councillors; and that the regulations had now been laid before Parliament to abolish such taxpayer-funded pensions for new Councillors in England and other elected office holders from 1 April 2014, and terminate access for existing Councillors at the end of their current fixed term of office (for example, from May 2014, in relation to Councillors with elections this year).

RESOLVED:

That the Regulations laid before Parliament to abolish taxpayer-funded pensions for Councillors be noted.

13. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM MEMBER

The Panel considered correspondence from Councillor Dawson asking that in future when considering the scheme of Members' Allowances, the Panel take into account the Special Responsibility Allowances and Basic Allowances made to Members across the North West region, and in particular, in authorities of a similar size and complexity to Sefton.

Members were advised that when approving the latest Scheme of Members' Allowances on 6 June 2012, the Panel considered statistical information relating to Basic Allowances (BA's) paid to Members in the north west region and BA's paid to Members of comparable local authorities, by population, that was extracted from the most recent Local Government Association Survey undertaken in 2008; and that this survey also included details of Special Responsibility Allowances.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the correspondence from Councillor Dawson be noted;
- (2) Councillor Dawson be advised that the Panel always takes into account comparative data when formulating Sefton's Members' Allowance Scheme; and
- (3) Councillor Dawson be also advised that when the Panel next reviews the Members' Allowance Scheme that all Sefton's elected Members will be invited to submit their views to the Panel.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Head of Governance and Civic Services be requested to consult with Panel Members in due course regarding the date of the next meeting.

15. CANON ROGER DRIVER

The Chair, Canon Roger Driver, advised that this would be his last meeting of the Panel; and thanked Panel Members and officers for their help and support to him over many years.

Andrea Watts, Head of Governance and Civic Services, thanked Canon Driver for his professional chairmanship of the Panel over the last six years and for his valuable contributions and commitment to the Panel over the past nine years.

RESOLVED:

That the best thanks of the Panel be extended to Canon Driver for his valuable role on the Panel during the past nine years and that he be wished every success for the future.

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REPORT TO: INDEPENDANT REMUNERATION PANEL

DATE: 4th June 2015

TITLE: Special Responsibility Allowances

CONTACT Andrea Watts

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 Following the local government elections in May 2015, the Council appointed a new Leader of the Council who, in turn, appointed a new Cabinet. The number of Cabinet Members has increased from the Leader plus 6 to the Leader plus 8 and the Chair of Planning Committee is now a Cabinet member. It was noted at the Adjourned Annual Council meeting held on 21st May 2015 that

“...it be noted that there will be no additional cost of the above arrangements. The Special Responsibility Allowance for Cabinet Members will be adjusted to ensure the new arrangements are cost neutral and the Independent Remuneration Panel is requested to confirm this position..”

2.0 CURRENT SCHEME OF MEMBERS ALLOWANCES

2.1 The latest Scheme of Members Allowances is contained at Appendix A. Members will recall that this scheme was based on multiples of the basic allowance to give the levels of special responsibility allowance for various posts. The cost of the Scheme under the previous Cabinet arrangements was as follows:

Basic Allowance	66 x £8794.51	£580,437.66
Leader of the Council	1 x £26,383.54	£26,383.54
Cabinet Member	6 x £17,589.03	£105,534.18
Party Leaders	2 x £4,397.26	£8794.52
Chair of Planning Committee	1 x £8,794.51	£8794.52
Chair of Licensing and Regulatory Committee	1 x £8,794.51	£8794.52
Chairs of Overview & Scrutiny Committees	4 x £4,397.26	£17,589.04
Chair of Audit & Governance Committee	1 x £4,397.26	£4,397.26

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TOTAL COST		£760,725.24
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3.0 PROPOSAL FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 Given the Leader of the Council's requirements that an amended Scheme of Members Allowances is cost neutral, the proposal is presented to the Independent Remuneration Panel for consideration which meets the following criteria

- contains the Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA's) within the existing budget allocation; and
- allows for the additional 2 Cabinet Member positions.

3.2 Given the current Scheme provides that only one allowance can be claimed per Member, a saving can be realised by the Chair of Planning having a seat on Cabinet. Therefore the allowance for the Chair of Planning Committee will no longer be required.

3.3 The existing Scheme is formulated by using a multiplier of the Basic Allowance to create the SRA's payable for various positions as follows:

Leader of the Council	3 x Basic
Cabinet Members	2 x Basic
Party Leaders	0.5 x Basic
Chair of Planning	1 x Basic
Chair of Licensing	1 x Basic
Chair of Overview and Scrutiny	0.5 x Basic
Chair of Audit & Governance	0.5 x Basic

3.4 In order to meet the requirements set out in paragraph 3.1 above, it is proposed that the basic allowance no longer be the applied multiplier for the Leader and Cabinet posts and that a multiplier of £7,246 be used instead. This represents a reduction in the multiplier of 17.6% based on the current Basic Allowance of £8794.51.

3.5 The impact of this reduction is shown at the table below (unchanged allowances are shaded grey).

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Basic Allowance	66 x £8794.51	£580,437.66
Leader of the Council	1 x £21,738	£21,738
Cabinet Member	8 x £14,492	£115,936
Party Leaders	2 x £4,397.26	£8794.52
Chair of Licensing and Regulatory Committee	1 x £8,794.51	£8794.52
Chairs of Overview & Scrutiny Committees	4 x £4,397.26	£17,589.04
Chair of Audit & Governance Committee	1 x £4,397.26	£4,397.26
TOTAL COST		£757,687

4.0 PROPOSED REVISED SCHEME OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

4.1 Appendix A shows the proposed revised Scheme of Members Allowances in its entirety.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

5.1 The views of the Independent Remuneration Panel are sought for submission to the Council meeting on 16th July 2015.

MEMBERS ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2015/16

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

The scheme shall be cited as the Sefton Council Members' Allowances Scheme and have effect from 17 July 2015, and for subsequent years commencing on 1 April.

Increases in Members Allowances will be linked to the average pay increase given to Sefton Council employees; and the annual adjustment in Members' Allowances will be implemented for a period of four years in accordance with the Regulations. This does not prevent the Independent Remuneration Panel from reviewing the Scheme at any time, but allows for the Scheme to continue without a full review subject to the annual adjustment being applied.

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

1. BASIC ALLOWANCE

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.

Subject to paragraph 4 the amount allocated for 2015/16 is £8,794.51

2. Special Responsibility Allowance

In order to recognise additional time and expenses incurred by Councillors who have significant additional responsibilities in carrying out their duties for Sefton Council, and subject to paragraph 4, the following Special Responsibility Allowances shall be paid:

Only one Special Responsibility Allowance is paid per Member and the allowances for 2015/16 are:

Leader of the Council	£21,738
Cabinet Members	£14,492
Party Leaders	£4,397.26
Committee Chairs:	
Licensing and Regulatory	£8,794.51
Overview and Scrutiny	£4,397.26
Audit and Governance	£4,397.26

3. 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.

4. Renunciation

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

5. Mayoral Allowances

The allowance paid to the Mayor is linked to the Scheme of Members Allowances and the following shall be paid:

Mayor	£13,191.77
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6. 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 for example: -

- 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 Party Leader.

7. Dependents Carers Allowance

Members who incur additional expenses in order to arrange care for dependents may claim these expenses. This rate is based on the National Minimum Wage up to a maximum of £60 per week.

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

Outside Bodies Approved by Council

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Merseytravel Committee
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Scrutiny Panel
Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority
Merseyside Police and Crime Panel
Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority

Outside Bodies Approved by the Cabinet

Aintree University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Ashton Memorial Fund, Formby
British Destinations
Clarence High School, Freshfield – Governing Body
Committee in Common – Healthy Liverpool Programme
Consolidated Charities of Thomas Brown and Marsh Dole
Formby Pool Trust – Board
Frank Hornby Trust
Halsall Educational Foundation
Joint Health Scrutiny Committee
Liverpool City Region Child Poverty and Life Chances Commission
Liverpool City Region Employment and Skills Board
Liverpool City Region Housing and Spatial Planning Board
Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership Board
Liverpool John Lennon Airport Consultative Committee
Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust
Local Government Association – General Assembly
Local Solutions
Mersey Forest Steering Group
Mersey Port Health Committee
Merseyside Community Safety Partnership
Merseyside Pensions Fund Pensions Committee
Merseyside Playing Fields Association
Merseyside Strategic Flood and Coastal Risk Management Partnership
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
PATROL Adjudication Joint Committee (Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London)
Peterhouse School, Southport – Governing Body
REECH Steering Group (Renewables and Energy Efficiency in Community Housing)
Sefton Coast Partnership Board
Sefton Council for Voluntary Service
Sefton Cycling Forum
Sefton Education Business Partnership

Sefton New Directions Limited Board
Sefton Sports Council
Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust
Southport Pier Trust
Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education (SACRE)
The John Goore Charity, Lydiate
Trans Pennine Trail Members' Steering Group

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