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MEETING: INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

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

DATE: Thursday 7th September, 2017

TIME: 11.00 am

VENUE: Marshside Room, Town Hall, Southport

Member

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

COMMITTEE OFFICER: Paul Fraser, Senior Democratic Services Officer
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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 To appoint the Chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel for the 2017 -2018 Municipal Year	
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 Minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2015	(Pages 5 - 8)
4.	Amendment to the Scheme of Members Allowances 2017/18 Report of the Head of Regulation and Compliance	All Wards (Pages 9 - 12)

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INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, BOOTLE ON 4 JUNE 2015

PRESENT: Mrs. Susan Lowe (in the Chair)
Mr. E. Davies, Mr. J. Fraser and Mrs. S. Lowe

ALSO PRESENT: Jill Coule, Head of Corporate Legal Services, Paul Fraser, Senior Democratic Services Officer, Margaret Rawding, Head of Corporate Finance and ICT and Andrea Watts, Head of Governance, Neighbourhoods and Partnerships

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED:

That Mrs. Susan Lowe be appointed Chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel for the 2015 -2016 Municipal Year.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of any disclosable pecuniary interest were received.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2014 be confirmed as a correct record.

4. SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES

The Panel considered the report of the Head of Governance, Neighbourhoods and Partnerships that indicated that following the Local Government elections in May 2015, the Council had appointed a new Leader of the Council who, in turn, appointed a new Cabinet; that the number of Cabinet Members had increased from the Leader plus 6 to the Leader plus 8 and that the Chair of the Planning Committee was now a

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Cabinet Member; and that it was noted at the Adjourned Annual Council meeting held on 21 May 2015 that:-

“...it be noted that there will be no additional cost of the above arrangements. The Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) 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.”

Appendix A to the report detailed the current Scheme of Members Allowances based on multiples of the Basic Allowance (BA) to give the levels of SRA for various posts; that in order to meet the requirements that the changes should be cost neutral, the Panel was requested to consider that the BA no longer be the applied multiplier for the Leader and Cabinet posts and that a multiplier of £7,246 be used instead; and that this represented a reduction in the multiplier of 17.6% based on the current BA of £8794.51.

The report concluded by requesting the Panel's views on the above mentioned reduction (in the multiplier of 17.6% based on the current BA of £8794.51) for submission to the Council meeting on 16 July 2015.

The Panel also considered an email submitted by Councillor Dawson in which he expressed concern that the Panel were being invited to endorse a decision of the Council relating to the amendments to SRA's rather than the Panel formulating its own decision on the matter; and that he considered that the decision taken by Council to increase the number of Cabinet Members from 7 to 9 was unconstitutional. The email concluded by detailing a number of reasons why Councillor Dawson considered supporting a reduction in the level of Sefton's SRA's.

Following questions from Panel Members the Monitoring Officer advised that she was satisfied that the decision taken by Council was neither unlawful nor unconstitutional.

RESOLVED: That:-

- (1) the Council be commended for maintaining a cost neutral position regarding the proposed arrangements and for the small reduction in the overall amount of Special Responsibility Allowances paid to Cabinet Members;
- (2) it be noted that the Leader of the Council and all Cabinet Members had given notice in writing, to the Chief Executive, to voluntarily forgo a portion of their Special Responsibility Allowances with immediate effect to £21,738 per annum (from £26,383.54) and to £14,492 per annum (from £17,589.03) respectively pending the approval of the new arrangements by Council;
- (3) it be noted that the proposed arrangements do not have any effect on the level of Members' Basic Allowance;

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- (4) the Council be advised that the Panel recommends the proposals as set out in paragraph 3.5 of the report and detailed below:-

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

- (5) in future, the Panel considers that should the Leader of the Council wish to propose changes to the Members Scheme of Allowances wider than the Cabinet Membership then consultation should take place with all Members affected by those proposals in advance of any consideration of this matter by the Panel, so that the Panel can be advised of members views accordingly

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Agenda Item 4

Report to:	Independent Remuneration Panel Council	Date of Meeting:	7 September 2017 21 September 2017
Subject:	Amendment to the Scheme of Members Allowances 2017/18		
Report of:	Head of Regulation and Compliance	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Regulation, Compliance and Corporate Services		
Is this a Key Decision:	NO	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	NO		

Summary:

The purpose of the report is to propose an amendment to the Council's Scheme of Members' Allowances in relation to Members who have been appointed to the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Transport Committee for 2017/18.

Recommendation(s):

The Panel, having considered the information, recommend to the Council that the Members Allowances Scheme for the Council be amended to include the allowances for the four Sefton Members serving on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Transport Committee as outlined within the report.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To ensure that the governance arrangements of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Transport Committee are applied and the four Sefton Members serving on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Transport Committee receive their Members Allowances for this work undertaken.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

None.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

Nil. The changes to accommodate the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Transport Committee allowances would create an annual revenue cost to Sefton of £32,675. The Combined Authority will make similar savings as a result of the fact that it no longer pays Allowances to Merseytravel Committee Members As a result it is

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expected that a commensurate reduction in future levies to the Combined Authority will be used to net off the Council's additional costs. Discussions will need to take place with the Combined Authority to determine how the costs incurred in 2017/18 will be recovered as the levy has already been set for the year.

(B) Capital Costs

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):

The changes to accommodate the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Transport Committee allowances would create an annual cost of £32,675. It is anticipated that the Combined Authority will make similar savings as a result of the fact that it no longer pays Allowances to Merseytravel Committee Members and discussions will therefore take place with a view to a commensurate reduction in future levies to the Combined Authority which will be used to fund the Council's additional costs. Discussions will need to take place with the Combined Authority to determine how the costs incurred in 2017/18 will be recovered as the levy has already been set for the year.

Legal Implications:

Equality Implications:

The scheme has regard to the provisions of the Equality Act 2010 and other equality legislation and is designed to encourage diversity on the Council and facilitate local democratic engagement. The 2017/18 Members' Allowances Scheme promotes the role of a Councillor and the activities of elected members.

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: Not applicable

Facilitate confident and resilient communities: Not applicable

Commission, broker and provide core services: Not applicable

Place – leadership and influencer: Having Membership from Sefton on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Transport Committee could increase the opportunities and benefits that may arise through collaborative working.

Drivers of change and reform: As above

Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: As above

Greater income for social investment: As above

Cleaner Greener: As above

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Head of Corporate Resources (FD.4799/17) has been consulted and notes the changes should bring about no increase in Costs for the Council. The expense of meeting the allowances for the four Sefton Members serving on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Transport Committee should be offset by a corresponding reduction in the annual levy raised by the Combined Authority. The Head of Regulation and Compliance (LD.4083/17) has been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Council meeting.

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Appendices:

There are no appendices to this report

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 Prior to May 2017, the Merseytravel Committee was largely responsible for overseeing the Combined Authority's transport responsibilities, including making recommendations to the Combined Authority and taking decisions on matters delegated to it by the Combined Authority. From May 2017, this work will be undertaken by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority's Transport Committee.
- 1.2 Previously, the allowances paid to Sefton Members appointed to the Merseytravel Committee were paid by the Council and reimbursed by Merseytravel.
- 1.3 From May, 2017 any allowances for Transport Committee Members must be paid and funded by each constituent authority within the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority. In respect of Sefton, up to four Elected Members can be nominated to sit on the Transport Committee.
- 1.4 The Adjourned Meeting of the Annual Council on 16 May 2017 agreed that the four Transport Committee Members from Sefton would comprise:-

Councillor McKinley;
Councillor Carr;
Councillor Friel – Deputy Chair of the Transport Committee; and

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Councillor Dodd.

- 1.5 It is currently anticipated that the Elected Members nominated to the Transport Committee will carry out roles which are broadly in line the duties previously carried out on the Merseytravel Committee. Each nominated Elected Member should therefore receive a Basic Allowance in line with the previous rate as a nominated representative on the Merseytravel Committee.
- 1.6 In addition, and again in line with previous arrangements for the Merseytravel Committee, it is suggested that a Sefton Elected Member should receive a Special Responsibility Allowance for specific duties on the Transport Committee as Deputy Chair of the Transport Committee and Lead Member of Rail.
- 1.7 The governance arrangements for the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Transport Committee are currently being reviewed and any proposed changes will be reported to the Independent Remuneration Panel and Council in due course.
- 1.8 The Members' Allowances for Elected Members of Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council serving on the Liverpool City Region Transport Committee being as follows:-

Basic Allowance - £5,675;
Special Responsibility Allowance – Deputy Chair of the Transport Committee and Lead Member Rail - £9,975
- 1.9 The Panel, having considered the information, recommend to the Council that the Members Allowances Scheme for the Council be amended to include the allowances for the four Sefton Members serving on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Transport Committee as outlined within the report.