

## **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,

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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.