
Report to: Cabinet
Council

Date of Meeting: 29th March 2012
12th April 2012

Subject: Report of Independent Remuneration Panel

Report of: Director of Corporate Commissioning **Wards Affected:** All

Is this a Key Decision? Yes **Is it included in the Forward Plan?** Yes

Exempt/Confidential No

Purpose/Summary

To advise Members of the recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel and to make recommendations to the Council.

Recommendation(s)

- 1) That the recommendation of the Panel to review the Scheme of Allowances following the Council elections in May be recommended by Cabinet to Council; and
- 2) The Panel membership be expanded by the appointment of Mr. E. Davies and Mr. J. Fraser.

How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Objectives?

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

Reasons for the Recommendation:

Approval of the Members' Allowances Scheme is a matter for the full Council.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs : There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. The remuneration of Members Allowances is made from Council Administration budgets held within the Governance & Civic Section of the Corporate Commissioning Directorate. The Independent Remuneration Panel were advised that Members' Basic Allowance had been cut by 5% from 2 September 2010 and 5% cuts were made to Special Responsibility Allowances in 2009/10.

(B) Capital Costs

Implications:

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

Legal The Independent Remuneration Panel is constituted in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) Regulations 2003.		
Human Resources		
Equality		
1.	No Equality Implication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.	Equality Implications identified and mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Equality Implication identified and risk remains	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impact on Service Delivery: None

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

The Head of Corporate Finance (FD1429/12) and Head of Corporate Legal Services (LD784/12) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

Are there any other options available for consideration? No

Implementation Date for the Decision Immediately following the Council meeting.

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Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

1.1 At its meeting on 14th December 2010, the Panel considered its work programme for the following municipal year and resolved to meet in March and September 2011 with a view to recommendations to the Council on the scheme of Members' allowances for 2012/13.

1.2 The Panel met on the following dates and considered the matters set out below:

16th March 2011 Presentation on the roles and work of Councillors.

Presentation on the matters for consideration by the Panel in understanding the review

7th September 2011 Consideration of information requested including:

Government guidance on local authority allowances, views submitted by Members in relation to the review and information on the Council's arrangements for organising Councillors' travel.

Presentation on the Council's current budget position and the prioritisation agenda.

29th November 2011 Consideration of information including:

Reviews undertaken by other Merseyside authorities, comparative data, Members receiving special responsibility allowances, Cabinet portfolio responsibilities, attendance statistics, role description and person specifications for Councillor positions and results of the National Census of Local Authority Councillors.

Oral representations from Councillors P. Dowd and Robertson.

21st December 2011 Oral representations from Councillor Mrs. Parry.

1.3 Following this comprehensive review of information the Panel resolved as follows:

- (1) The Panel notes the increased workload undertaken by Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny Committees;
- (2) The Panel also notes the differing roles, responsibilities and time spent on duties by different Cabinet Member portfolio spokespersons;
- (3) Accordingly, the Panel acknowledges the potential to reflect the matters referred to in (1) and (2) above in a review of the Members' Allowance Scheme following the local government elections in May 2012;

- (4) An induction/refresh session be arranged for new/existing Panel Members in early March 2012 and a formal, further meeting of the Panel be arranged in early April 2012.

2. Panel Membership

- 2.1 The Panel have also requested that the membership of the Panel be increased. In view of the forthcoming changes to the Standards Committee, it is proposed that the independent members of the Standards Committee be invited to join the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 2.2 The proposed Panel members have a great deal of experience and are familiar with the work of Sefton having been well-respected members of Sefton's Standards Committee for over 8 years.
- 2.2 It is proposed that an induction and refresh session and a meeting of the Panel be arranged for early in the 2012/13 municipal year.