

Meeting: STANDARDS COMMITTEE
COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 15 DECEMBER 2009
17 DECEMBER 2009

Title of Report: REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES –
INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

Report of:

Mrs C J Elwood
Legal Director

Contact Officer:
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This report contains	Yes	No
CONFIDENTIAL Information/		√
EXEMPT information by virtue of paragraph(s).....of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972 (If information <u>is</u> marked exempt, the Public Interest Test must be applied and favour the exclusion of the information from the press and public).		√
Is the decision on this report DELEGATED?		

Purpose of Report

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

Recommendation(s)

That Members of the Standards Committee consider the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel and make recommendations to Full Council in relation to the review of the Members Allowance Scheme.

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		√	

Financial Implications

The additional cost of implementing the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel are:

- a) Full Year - £22,315
- b) May 2009 to March 31st 2010 - £20,455
- c) 1st January 2010 to 31st March 2010 £5,578

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2009/ 2010 £	2010/ 2011 £	2011/ 2012 £	2012/ 2013 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure	22,315	22,315	22,315	22,315
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources	22,315	22,315	22,315	22,315
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

Departments consulted in the preparation of this Report

Legal
Finance

List of background papers relied upon in the preparation of this Report

Report to the Independent Remuneration Panel

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The three Members of the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel met on the 3rd December 2008 to review the Council's current Members Allowance Scheme. The report of the Panel setting out their findings and recommendations is set out at **Annex 1**.
- 1.2 At their meeting on 22nd January, 2009, Members considered the report of the Panel with a view to making recommendations to full Council on 26th February, 2009. After some discussion it was resolved that the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel be deferred to enable the views of the three Political Groups to be sought on the Members Travel & Subsistence Scheme and a report thereon be submitted to the Independent Remuneration Panel for consideration.
- 1.3 After the three Political Groups had considered the matter it was decided not to refer the issue back to the Panel. Accordingly, Members of the Standards Committee considered the report prior to Full Council on 9th July, 2009.
- 1.4 At the Council Meeting Members passed the following resolution:-

RESOLVED: That
 - (1) the IRP recommendations be noted and, while supportive of the principles, this Council believes that the overall Councillors Allowances Budget should be capped at the present level; and
 - (2) accordingly, this matter be referred back to the IRP to consider how the IRP principles can be achieved whilst staying within the overall Councillors Allowances budget and IRP be asked to examine the overall Councillors Allowances budget in the light of the current financial climate with a view to possible reductions in the budget.
- 1.5 The Independent Remuneration Panel met again on the 16 November 2009 and their additional report and recommendations are set out at **Annex 2**.
- 1.6 The additional cost of implementing the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel's for a full year is £22,315. However, if the changes were implemented with effect from May 2009 the cost would be £20,455 and with effect from 1st January 2010, it would be £5,578.
- 1.7 Members of the Standards Committee are requested to review the report and make recommendations to Council in relation to the review of the Scheme.