

CITY COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2008

REPORT OF THE LEADER

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME – REVIEW BY INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

1 SUMMARY

The Independent Remuneration Panel has carried out a review of the allowances scheme and this report considers their recommendations. A copy of the Panel's recommendations is contained in Appendix A.

2 RECOMMENDATION

IT IS RECOMMENDED that:-

- (1) the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, excepting recommendation 2, be adopted in full, and they be thanked for their work on the Scheme;
- (2) Special Responsibility Allowances be given to Executive Assistants, at a level equivalent to Chairs of Regulatory Committees;
- (3) the current scheme be amended in accordance with the above recommendations and the revised Members' Allowances Scheme, set out in Appendix B to this report, be adopted.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel has recently reviewed the Members' Allowances Scheme and reported to the City Council. A copy of their report has been sent separately to all Councillors, and Appendix A is a summary of their recommendations.

3.2 My proposals in relation to their recommendations are set out below:-

Recommendation One – Accepted.

Recommendation Two – The support for Special Responsibility Allowances for Executive Assistants is welcomed but I do consider they merit a higher payment, equivalent to that of a regulatory committee chair, and am recommending this.

Recommendations Three and Four – Accepted.

Recommendations Five to Eight – Accepted. I consider that it is in the interests of the Council, and all its political groups that we place higher priority on Member's development, including performance management and monitoring and, so, fully support these recommendations.

Recommendations Nine to Eleven – Accepted.

Recommendation Twelve – Accepted. I support this as I consider that it is important that the Leaders of the minority parties have suitable recognition within the Scheme and are adequately recompensed for their work.

3.3 The effect of the proposed changes is set out in Appendix B.

4 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The City Council has a duty to consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel before adopting or amending its Scheme of Allowances.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The implementation of the recommendations in this report can be contained within the budget for Members' Allowances.

6 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

None.

7 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

- 7.1 Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel dated October 2007
- 7.2 Members Allowances Scheme 2006.
- 7.3 Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (Amendment) Regulations 2003.

**COUNCILLOR JON COLLINS
LEADER**