



Member's Allowances – Recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for 2005/06

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 To accept the report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel at Appendix 2.
- 1.2 To include in the list of approved duties for Travel and Subsistence and Dependent Carers Allowances, attendance at Members' surgeries and any meeting to which a Member is invited as a ward councillor.
- 1.3 To link increases in Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances in 2005/06 to the average salary award for local authority employees of 2.95% with effect from 1 April 2005.
- 1.4 Not to pay a Special Responsibility Allowance to members of the Planning Control Committee, other than the Chair.
- 1.5 To amend the Members' Allowance Scheme accordingly.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel has reviewed the Members' Allowances Scheme and its report is attached as Appendix 2. It contains recommendations relating to:
 - Indexing of allowances
 - The list of approved duties for Travelling and Subsistence and Dependent Carer's Allowances.
- 2.2 The Council is asked to consider the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel and approve the Panel's recommendations with or without amendment.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. Assuming that there is no change in the numbers of Councillors entitled to Special Responsibility Allowances, the effect of the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel should be to increase overall expenditure on Members' Allowances by £8577 in 2005/06. This can be contained within the overall budget provisions for Members' Allowances.

Legal

- 2.1 Members' Allowances are governed by the Local Government Acts and associated regulations.
- 2.2 Before making its Members' Allowances Scheme, the Council must have regard to the recommendations of its Independent Remuneration Panel although, with the exception of pensions, it is not bound to accept them.
- 2.3 The Council must make a Members' Allowances Scheme before 1 April each year.

Personnel

3. None directly arising.

Equalities Impact

4. None directly arising.

Corporate Themes and Priorities

5. None directly arising.

For more information contact:	Steve Dunning 01332 255462 e-mail steve.dunning@derby.gov.uk
Background papers:	None – all published
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Eighth Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel



MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

EIGHTH REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

Background

1. Under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, (the '2003 Regulations') local authorities must establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel. The purpose of this panel is to make recommendations to the authority:
 - a) as to the amount of Basic Allowance that should be payable to its elected members,
 - b) about the roles and responsibilities for which a Special Responsibility Allowance should be payable and as to the amount of each such allowance,
 - c) as to whether the authority's allowances scheme should include an allowance in respect of expenses of arranging for the care of children and dependants, and if it does make such a recommendation, the amount of this allowance and the means by which it is determined,
 - d) about the duties for which a Travelling and Subsistence Allowance can be paid and as to the amount of this allowance,
 - e) as to the amount of a Co-optees Allowance,
 - f) on whether any allowance should be backdated to the beginning of a financial year,
 - g) as to whether annual adjustments of allowance levels may be made by reference to an index, and, if so, for how long such a measure should run,
 - h) as to which members of an authority are to be entitled to pensions and as to treating basic allowance and special responsibility allowance as amounts in respect of which such pensions are payable.

2. Derby City Council's Independent Remuneration Panel comprises:
 - Professor Mary Carswell, Director, Derbyshire Business School, University of Derby (Vice Chair)
 - Sue Holmes, Chief Executive, Derby Law Centre
 - Shameem Malooq, Manager, Asian Advisory Service
 - Ian Samways, Individual Member (Chair)
 - Nigel Sutherland, Director, Brigdens Ltd.
3. The Panel considered a request from the Members Services Working Party that there should be added to the list of approved duties for Travel and Subsistence and Dependants Carer's Allowances, attendance at Members' surgeries and any meeting to which a Member is invited as a ward councillor. The Panel considers this request to be reasonable and recommends that the Council accepts it.
4. In its seventh report, the Panel said that it had not been able to draw any firm conclusions from the survey of councillors on the relative workloads of constitutional bodies, although the survey had proved useful in informing its consideration of the issues involved.
5. In particular, the Panel had undertaken to consider the question of Special Responsibility Allowances for members of the Planning Control Committee, when making general recommendations for 2005/06. When this issue was first raised, it had been noted that, because of its heavy workload, the Committee might find it necessary to increase the frequency of its meetings from one a month to two a month. The Panel understands that the Committee has resolved not to increase the frequency of its meetings, but to introduce other measures to help manage its workload more effectively. In these circumstances, the Panel does not intend, at this stage, to recommend such a payment, although it will reconsider the matter if circumstances change significantly in the future.
6. In its sixth report, the Panel recommended that annual increases in Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances be linked to the average salary award for local authority employees as follows:
 - 2.75% from 1 April 2004
 - 2.95% from 1 April 2005

The Panel reaffirms the recommendation for 2005/06.

RECOMMENDATIONS

7. Having considered all of the evidence before it, and the statutory guidance, the Panel formally recommends the Council ...
 - a) to include in the list of approved duties for Travel and Subsistence and Dependent Carers Allowances, attendance at Members' surgeries and any meeting to which a Member is invited as a ward councillor.
 - b) to link increases in Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances in 2005/06 to the average salary award for local authority employees of 2.95% with effect from 1 April 2005.

- c) not to pay a Special Responsibility Allowance to members of the Planning Control Committee, other than the Chair.

Ian Samways
Chair of the Independent
Remuneration Panel

Michael Foote
Secretary to the Independent
Remuneration Panel

February 2005