



## Members' Allowances – Recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for 2011/12

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 The Council is asked to consider the following recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel:
- 1) Spending on Members' Allowances be reduced by £54,072 in 2011/12 compared to actual spend in 2010/11, in keeping with the overall reduction in the Council budget of 6.9%
  - 2) The Council determines the best way to achieve this reduction within the following guidelines:
    - a) there should be a reduction in the number of councillor positions attracting a Special Responsibility Allowance to no more than 25, in keeping with national guidelines; (*there are currently 38 such positions*) and:
    - b) if the arrangements agreed via recommendation 2a are not sufficient to achieve the savings identified in recommendation 1, the balance should be achieved through reductions in the level of Special Responsibility Allowances associated with those positions which are retained; except that
    - c) the Special Responsibility Allowance associated with the Leader of the Council should remain at its current level (£29,929.32) in recognition of the considerable level of additional commitment and responsibility required
    - d) in recognition of the community leadership role of councillors, the Basic Allowance should continue to be linked with employee salaries, such that it is maintained as its current level (£9,976.43) but in the event that employee salaries are reduced as part of the Council's efforts to achieve savings during 2011/12 and 2012/13, then the Basic Allowance be reduced accordingly.
  - 3) An additional condition be included in the Members' Allowances Scheme requiring members of the General Licensing Committee and Taxi Licensing and Appeals Committee to make themselves available for case panels for up to 26 sessions a year, with a session comprising a half day.

- 4) The guidelines for long distance travel by Councillors be brought into line with those applying to employees.
- 5) The Special Responsibility Allowance payable to members of the Adoption Panel be reduced to 3.125% of the Leader's allowance (*ie* £ 935.29)

1.2 Council is recommended to approve a Members' Allowances Scheme for 2011/12.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The Seventeenth Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel is attached as Appendix 2.
- 2.2 The existing Members' Allowances Scheme is attached as Appendix 3.
- 2.3 Council is asked to consider the Panel's recommendations.
- 2.4 As it is a legal requirement that the Council make a Members' Allowance Scheme before 1 April each year, Council has the following options:

### **Option 1**

- To formally approve the existing Members' Allowances Scheme, as an interim measure, from 1 April 2011, and
- To approve the recommendations of the Panel without modification, and to refer the Panel's recommendations to an appropriate cross-party body (e.g. the Governance Committee), to make recommendations to the May 2011 Council meeting, on an amended Members' Allowances Scheme for 2011/12.

### **Option 2**

- To formally approve the existing Members' Allowances Scheme, as an interim measure, from 1 April 2011, and
- To approve the recommendations of the Panel with modification, and to refer the Panel's recommendations to an appropriate cross-party body (e.g. the Governance Committee), to make recommendations to the May 2011 Council meeting, on an amended Members' Allowances Scheme for 2011/12.

### **Option 3**

- To not approve the recommendations of the Panel, and
- To formally approve the existing Members' Allowances Scheme from 1 April 2011.

**This report has been approved by the following officers:**

<b>For more information contact:</b> <b>Background papers:</b> <b>List of appendices:</b>	Name Steve Dunning 01332 643643 e-mail <a href="mailto:steve.dunning@derby.gov.uk">steve.dunning@derby.gov.uk</a> Agenda and reports of the Independent Remuneration Panel Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Seventeenth Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel Appendix 3 – Existing Members’ Allowances Scheme 2010/11
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<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial**

- 1.1 The budget for Members' Allowances for 2011/12 has been set at the same level as 2010/11.
- 1.2 Any reductions in the budget for Members' Allowances for 2011/12 that are approved by Council can be used to support pressures elsewhere.

**Legal**

- 2.1 Members' Allowances are governed by the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003. Local Authorities must establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 2.2 Before making or amending 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 and may amend the Scheme at any time.

**Personnel**

3. None directly arising.

**Equalities Impact**

4. None directly arising.

**Corporate Themes and Priorities**

5. None directly arising.