

CABINET**3 December 2014****Minute Extract****356. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES – RECOMMENDATIONS OF INDEPENDENT RENUMERATION PANEL**

(Report CAB2635 refers)

Cabinet recognised that it was for Council to determine the approach to be taken to the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel Report. It noted that should Council wish to make any changes to the Panel's recommendations, it would be necessary to provide reasons.

Cabinet agreed that Council should be urged to not increase the Members' Allowances rate from May 2015 as it was not appropriate in the current financial climate.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the Report.

RECOMMENDED:

1A) THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO CHANGE TO THE CURRENT BASIC ALLOWANCE AND SRAS PAYABLE FOR 2015/16.

1B) THAT THE CURRENT SRA SCHEDULE BE AMENDED BY THE ADDITION OF AN SRA FOR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE AT £1,521 (BAND 6) FOR 2015/16; AND CONSEQUENTLY THAT THE PROVISION FOR A CO-OPTEE'S ALLOWANCE (£3,024), PREVIOUSLY PAID TO THE CO-OPTED CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE, BE REMOVED FROM THE SCHEME.

1C) THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO CHANGE TO THE 'FIVE MEMBERS' QUALIFYING CRITERION FOR THE SRA FOR LEADERS OF OTHER (OPPOSITION) GROUPS TO BE PAYABLE.

1D) THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO CHANGE TO THE '19 MEMBERS' QUALIFYING CRITERION FOR THE SRA FOR GROUP MANAGERS TO BE PAYABLE.

1E) THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO CHANGE TO THE RULE THAT A MEMBER CAN RECEIVE ONLY ONE SRA.

1F) THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO CHANGE TO THE CURRENT CAP LIMITING THE NUMBER OF SRAS PAYABLE IN ANY YEAR TO 50% OF COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP (CURRENTLY 28).

1G) THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO CHANGE TO THE CURRENT TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCES OR TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR WHICH THEY ARE CLAIMABLE.

1H) THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO CHANGE TO THE CURRENT RATES AND CONDITIONS FOR DEPENDANTS' CARERS' ALLOWANCE (DCA).

1I) THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO CHANGE TO THE CURRENT CO-OPTEE'S ALLOWANCE FOR 2015/16 FOR PARISH REPRESENTATIVES ON THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE, ; NOR TO THE ENTITLEMENT OF THE CO-OPTEE'S TO CLAIM TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CURRENT MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME.

1J) THAT THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE'S AUTHORITY TO WITHHOLD THE PAYMENT OF ALLOWANCES TO MEMBERS IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES (PARAGRAPH 7, THE ROLE OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE) BE REMOVED FROM THE SCHEME.

1K) THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO CHANGE TO THE CURRENT INDICES BY WHICH COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS TO ALLOWANCES ARE MADE, NAMELY:

- BASIC ALLOWANCE, SRAS, CO-OPTEE'S ALLOWANCES, DCA AND SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCES:

INDEXED TO THE ANNUAL PERCENTAGE INCREASE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF (BASED ON 'SPINAL COLUMN POINT 49'), OF THE NATIONAL JOINT COUNCIL FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF SERVICES; AND IMPLEMENTED FROM THE DATE OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING EACH YEAR.

- TRAVEL ALLOWANCES:

MILEAGE: INDEXED TO CHANGES IN THE HMRC RATES

THAT THESE INDICES BE INCLUDED IN THE REVISED ALLOWANCES' SCHEME FROM 1 APRIL 2015 AND CONTINUE TO BE AN OPTION FOR THE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ANNUALLY FOR UP TO FOUR YEARS, OR UNTIL SUCH TIME THAT THE COUNCIL RESOLVES TO MAKE CHANGES FOLLOWING THE NEXT REVIEW BY THE PANEL; WHICHEVER IS THE SOONER.

2. THAT THE INCLUSION OF MEMBERS' FORMAL ATTENDANCE RECORDS IN THE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL STATUTORY PUBLICATION OF 'ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES RECEIVED BY EACH MEMBER' BE DISCONTINUED FROM THE 2014/15 PUBLICATION ONWARDS.

3. THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PANEL WITH REGARD TO NON PAYMENT OF THE PARISH BASIC ALLOWANCE AND ADMINISTRATION OF A PARISH MEMBERS TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCES, BE NOTED.

4. THAT THE GENERAL INFLATION INDEX SHOULD NOT BE APPLIED TO RATES IN THE SCHEME FOR THE 2015/16 MUNICIPAL YEAR (i.e. FROM THE DATE OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING ON 20 MAY 2015).

5. THAT THE HMRC INDEX FOR MILEAGE RATES CONTINUE TO BE APPLIED IN 2015/16.

6. THAT NO CHANGES BE MADE TO THE BASE BUDGET FOR MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES FOR 2015/16.

RESOLVED:

That a report be submitted direct to Council which sets out the full Members' Allowances Scheme for approval, incorporating all decisions arising from the above.