

CABINET

15 October 2003

MEMBERS ALLOWANCES – THIRD REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION
PANEL – REVISED SCHEME

REPORT OF CITY SECRETARY AND SOLICITOR

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RECENT REFERENCES:

CAB493 – Members Allowances – Update – 16 October 2002

CAB580 – Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel – 12 February 2003

CL9 – Changes to Members Allowances Scheme – 26 February 2003

ST33 – Code of Conduct – Guidance from the Standards Board – 22 September 2003

CAB717 – Members Allowances – Third Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Following consideration of Report CAB 717 at the Cabinet meeting on 1 October 2003, appended to this report is an amended version of the full Members Allowances Scheme. As there are a considerable number of alterations from the current version, the use of track changes would be confusing, so the Appendix is the complete new Scheme for which Members approval is sought.

Members are asked to determine whether the inflation index in the Scheme should be used in 2004/5 rather than a full review of the whole Scheme.

Members are also asked to consider whether attendance at certain outside bodies should be added to the list of approved duties in the Scheme (paragraph 3.4 of the report refers).

RECOMMENDATIONS (to Council):

1. That, subject to the consideration of any points made by TACT on the proposed Co-optees' Allowance, and any comments made by Cabinet on the addition of approved duties to the Schedule to the Scheme:
 - (a) the revised Members Allowances Scheme, as set out in Appendix 1 to this report, be approved and introduced with effect from 1 November 2003, and
 - (b) that the current Members Allowances Scheme be revoked with effect from 1 November 2003.
2. That the City Secretary and Solicitor be authorised to make any minor editing textual changes to the Scheme which become necessary on final checking.
3. That the inflation Index contained in the Scheme be used for a general increase in Scheme rates from the date of the Annual Meeting in 2004, in view of the recent comprehensive review of the Scheme by the Panel, and the Panel only be convened in the Summer of 2004 should the Council make any material structural changes which necessitate such a review.

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REMUNERATION PANEL – REVISED SCHEMEReport of City Secretary and SolicitorDETAIL:

- 1 Introduction
 - 1.1 Members will recall discussion at the last meeting of Cabinet on 1 October 2003, when they considered and mostly approved the recommendations of the Members Allowances Independent Remuneration Panel.
 - 1.2 The full decision from that meeting is set out in the minutes elsewhere on this agenda.
- 2 Revised Allowances Scheme
 - 2.1 Attached as Appendix 1 is the revised full Members Allowances Scheme.
 - 2.2 The revised Scheme will need to be approved by Council on 29 October 2003 for introduction with effect from 1 November 2003.
- 3 Detailed Matters
 - 3.1 The proposed Scheme contains an inflation index which can be used for Allowance rates should there be no need to specifically convene another meeting of the Independent Remuneration Panel to review the Scheme content. Given the recent nature of the current comprehensive review of the Scheme, it is suggested that the inflation mechanism could be generally used from the date of the Annual Council meeting in 2004. However, the Panel could be convened in the Summer of 2004 to consider any specific issues, should the Council make any material changes to its decision-making processes.
 - 3.2 From time to time it is necessary to consider whether any additional meetings should be added to the list of approved duties for the purposes of travel and/or subsistence allowances.
 - 3.3 External bodies that have ceased to exist since the last Schedule was approved have been deleted from the list in Appendix 1.
 - 3.4 The following body has been added to Schedule 1 (Category A) to the Scheme, because it is similar in type to bodies already included in that Category and should be eligible to the same allowance entitlement :-
 - (a) Hampshire County Council Highway Management Advisory Panel

- 3.5 The following bodies have been added to Schedule 1 (Category B) to the Scheme, because they are similar in type to bodies already included in that Category and should be eligible to the same allowance entitlement :-
- (a) HCC Annual Meeting with Parish and District Councils
 - (b) Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Portsmouth CC)
 - (c) Southampton International Airport Consultative Committee
 - (d) Winchester Road Safety Council Committee
- 3.6 The Association of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Authorities (HLOWLA) appoints representatives to a number of outside bodies and, from time to time, those representatives are Members of this Authority. Therefore, rather than continue to include a specific list, which means that any new appointment would require authorisation from Cabinet before an allowance could be received, the wording of the Scheme has been amended to be more flexible and cover both existing and new appointments.
- 3.7 TACT will be considering the proposal to pay an allowance to their co-opted representatives at its meeting to be held on the evening of 15 October 2003. It is suggested that Cabinet recommends approval of the Co-optees' allowance at this stage and then any comments from TACT can be considered at the Council meeting on 29 October 2003. If necessary, the text of the Scheme can be amended.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

4 CORPORATE STRATEGY (RELEVANCE TO):

- 4.1 The Panel's proposals are the outcome of the statutory requirement to review the Allowances Scheme as part of the modernisation process and in accordance with new regulations.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 The proposed Scheme will permit a saving of £44,594 to be made on the existing budget.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Folder of Documents submitted to the Independent Remuneration Panel

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Amended version of Members Allowances Scheme