



Epping Forest District Council

MEMBER REMUNERATION PANEL **Wednesday, 12th October, 2005**

Place: Committee Room 1, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping

Time: 6.00 pm

Committee Secretary: Graham Lunnun, Research and Democratic Services
Email: glunnun@eppingforestdc.gov.uk Tel 01992 564244

Members:

M R Donn, D Jackman and S A Lye

1. CHAIRMAN

To elect a Chairman for the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. MEMBERS' CONNECTIVITY SCHEME (Pages 3 - 12)

Recommendation:

To consider the payment of an allowance towards acquiring computer equipment and materials for use in accessing information regarding the Council's agenda and minutes via the Internet.

Attached is a copy of a report considered recently by the Council's ICT and E Government Standing Scrutiny Panel.

The Scrutiny Panel is proposing, subject to the views of the Remuneration Panel, that a grant of £500 per annum be paid to each member to enable them to receive electronic notification of and internet access to papers for Council meetings and associated information.

4. MEMBER REMUNERATION SCHEME - REVIEW 2006/07 (Pages 13 - 54)

To consider the attached report regarding the scheme in relation to (a) Licensing Committee; (b) Overview and Scrutiny; and (c) Cabinet.

5. TRAVELLING ALLOWANCES

Recommendation:

To consider the need to make new recommendations regarding the rates to apply regarding re-imbusement of travelling expenses for car use.

The Leader of the Council has received a number of representations about the increase in fuel prices. The view expressed is that the rates per mile currently applied by the scheme do not reflect that increase.

The mileage rate has not changed since 2000/01, which was the last year in which the Government specified a maximum rate. It is now up to councils to determine their own rates after considering the views of their independent panels.

When the new proposals were introduced, the Local Government Association in consultation with Employers' Organisation agreed to circulate the annual mileage rates for employees as guidance for councils and panels when considering the rates for members.

This Council's current rates for members are:

Not exceeding 999cc – 34.6p a mile
Not exceeding 1199cc – 39.5p a mile
Exceeding 1199cc – 48.5p a mile.

The current rates for employees (casual users) which took effect on 1 April 2005 are:

451 - 999c – 38.7p a mile
1000 - 1199cc – 42.0p a mile
1200 – 1450cc – 52.7p a mile

The employees' rates are based on a price of 82.45p per litre for unleaded petrol (based on actual pump prices in the first two weeks of January (as surveyed by the Automobile Association on behalf of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders) in accordance with a jointly agreed formula for calculating the allowances each year).

The Panel is asked to consider the request for an increase in mileage rates and report to the Council accordingly.