

# **Report to the Council**

**Report of:** Assistant to the Chief Executive

**Subject:** Member Remuneration Scheme -  
Additional Recommendation

**Date:** 15 May 2008

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## **1. DISTRICT/PARISH REMUNERATION PANELS – ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES**

### **Recommendation:**

**That, pursuant to Regulation 20(3) of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, provision be made in the Council's Remuneration Scheme to provide for the payment of allowances and expenses to members of the District and Parish Remuneration Panels to be payable at a rate equivalent to the co-optees' allowances and expenses applicable to the independent and co-opted members of the Audit and Governance Committee and Standards Committee (namely an annual payment of £500 per annum plus travelling, subsistence and other expenses at the rates specified in the scheme and according to the same terms and conditions).**

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### **Background**

1. The Council has a discretion to make payments to members of its Remuneration Panels. The Council currently has two such panels comprising the same members who are all independent persons who have volunteered to undertake this task. In relation to the Audit and Governance Committee and the Standards Committee, such allowances are known as the "Co-optees' Allowance" but different arrangements are required to be made under Government regulations for the Remuneration Panels.
2. The founder members of the Remuneration Panel have always indicated a preference for not seeking an allowance or expenses in respect of their involvement. As a consequence, no provision has ever been made in the Remuneration Scheme for this purpose.
3. This report, which is brought before the Council independently of the Panels, seeks to change the current situation. This is because the recruitment exercise recently conducted to fill a vacancy on the Remuneration Panels proved unsuccessful in attracting any interested persons. Bearing in mind that it is planned to launch a further recruitment exercise during 2008/9, the view of officers is that the appointment of a suitable person could be assisted if a facility, equivalent to the Co-optees' Allowance, could be made available.
4. Regulation 20(3) as indicated in our recommendations allows an authority to pay expenses incurred by an independent Remuneration Panel for carrying out its functions and may pay the members of the Panel such expenses or allowances as the Authority may determine.

5. The proposal is that the Council should include in its scheme a payment to the Remuneration Panel members equivalent to the Co-optees' Allowance (£500 per annum) that is payable to the independent or co-opted members of the Audit and Governance Committee and the Standards Committee. Likewise, it is proposed that travel, subsistence and other incidental expenses which are applicable to those Standards Committee and Audit and Governance Committee members should also be applied to the Remuneration Panel. It should be reiterated that this proposal is brought independently of the Panel for consideration by the Council in view of the forthcoming recruitment exercise.
6. If all members of the Panel were to claim the new allowance this would generate additional spending of £1,500 per annum plus the cost of any travel and subsistence which is incurred.