

Report to Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 18 October 2011

Report of: Constitution and Member Services SSP

Subject: Annual Report of the Remuneration Panel
2010/11



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Committee Secretary: A Hendry (01992 564246)

Recommendations:

(1) That the following recommendation (numbered (11) in the report of the Remuneration Panel) be adopted and submitted to the Council for approval:

“That the reference to first class rail return fare in the current scheme in relation to travel to meetings outside the District or by members resident outside the District be removed from the scheme”; and

(2) That for the purposes of the next review of member remuneration, the Panel be requested to review the following:

(a) the SRA payable to the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the light of recent changes to reporting at Council meetings;

(b) the IT Connectivity Allowance: eligibility and payment levels; and

(c) review of wording in respect of an assessment of hours worked by Councillors as a basis for calculating the Basic Allowance by reference to the national minimum wage.

1. Introduction

1.1 We asked the Committee to review the most recent report of the Remuneration Panel on members' allowance. Our request was agreed at the meeting on 12 July 2011. This followed earlier consideration at the Council meeting in June.

2. Review

2.1 We have now completed our review. In this, we were grateful to two members of the Remuneration Panel (Stephen Lye and Rosie Kelly) who attended our meeting on 4 October and answered questions.

2.2 Our discussions were wide-ranging but the only substantive recommendation is shown at (1) at the commencement of this report. This was included in the report made by the Panel at the June Council meeting. We feel that this should be adopted as part of the scheme. This change is already part of the officer scheme for reimbursement of expenses and in the current climate, the option for first class rail should not be available to members.

2.3 Recommendation (2) reflects other matters we discussed with the Panel which we would like them to consider as part of their next review. In addition a number of points of clarification were raised which would be examined by officers as these will not directly affect the remuneration payable to members.

2.4 We would like a review of the hours dedicated by members to Council work so as to clarify the Basic Allowance. We recommend also that the IT Connectivity Allowance be examined to see if it meets its objectives.

3. Recommendation

3.1 We recommend as set out at the commencement of this report.

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