

REPORT OF THE MEMBERS' REMUNERATION PANEL TO SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Panel, consisting of John Bridge, Valerie Bright and Ruth Rogers met on 14 December 2007 to review various aspects of Members' allowances. Ruth Rogers was appointed as Chairman for the meeting.

Basic Allowance

The Panel expressed its gratitude for the enormous amount of work undertaken by each of the district councillors for their individual wards and, having taken into account the financial situation of the district council and the rate of inflation, **recommend** that the basic allowance be increased by 2.5% from 1 April 2008.

This would result in a basic allowance of £3981, plus expenses of £646, making a total of £4627.

Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA)

The Panel was requested to consider allowances for Chairs of the newly created Corporate Governance, Policy Development and Northstowe Joint Development Control (JDCC) Committees.

Councillor TJ Wotherspoon addressed the Panel as Chair of two of the committees and explained that the Corporate Governance Committee did not take up too much of his time, however, he was spending time each day on matters arising from the Northstowe JDCC. He also informed the Panel that he had not taken the position of Chair in order to receive remuneration. Cllr Wotherspoon then left the room.

The Panel, although taking into consideration the comments of Cllr Wotherspoon, did not wish to set a precedent for the other local authorities involved in the Northstowe JDCC and **recommended** that no additional allowance be payable to the Chairman of that committee.

Consideration was then given to the possibility of an allowance for the chairs of Corporate Governance and Policy Development Committees and, following discussion, it was recognised that both committees would play an important role in the future development of the Council. The Panel **recommended** an allowance of £1775 to the Chairmen of those committees.

It was noted that hearings in respect of the Licensing 2003 Act had considerably reduced during the past year and it was felt that the Licensing Committee Chairman should take a reduction in allowance in order to reflect those changes and to this end, **recommended** the allowance be brought in line with the Chairs of Corporate Governance and Policy Development committees.

The Panel's attention was drawn to the possibility of increasing the allowance for the members of Standards Committee as new legislation affecting their role would be introduced from 1 April 2008. As it was unclear how the changes would affect Member involvement, it was **recommended** that the allowance remain unchanged; however, the Panel would re-consider the issue next year and if appropriate would look at retrospective payment.

The Panel took the opportunity to review the remainder of SRAs and in so doing, was keen to regularise the allowances payable. To this end, the Panel **recommended** that a 2.5% increase in all other SRAs be awarded. For consistency, the Panel **recommended** that the

Vice-Chairmen of Council and the Planning and Licensing Committees receive 50% of the Chairman's allowance for those bodies.

The revised rates for allowances would be as follows:

Basic Allowance	£ 4,627
Chairman of the Council	£ 3,884
Vice-Chairman of Council	£ 1,942
Leader	£10,300
Deputy Leader	£ 7,726
Cabinet Members	£ 6, 868
Leader of the Main Opposition Group	£ 3,495
Scrutiny Committee Chairman	£ 3,328
Scrutiny Committee Vice-Chairman	£ 1,664
Planning Chairman	£ 4,437
Planning Vice-Chairman	£ 2,219
Licensing Committee Chairman	£ 1,775
Corporate Governance Committee Chairman	£ 1,775
Policy Development Committee Chairman	£ 1,775
Standards Committee Chairman	£ 443
Independent member of Standards Committee	£ 276
Parish member of Standards Committee	£ 220
Employment Committee Chairman	£ 431

Dependants' Carer's Allowance

The Panel **recommended** that the present rate be increased by 2.5% from £14.51 to £14.87.

Travel and Subsistence Allowances

The Panel **recommended** no increase in the above allowances.

The Panel expressed its thanks for the representations received from Councillors TJ Wotherspoon, RE Barrett and A Riley.

In conclusion, the Panel raised the issue of the allowance paid to them by the Council for attending the annual meeting to discuss Member remuneration, **recommending** that the current allowance of £200 each be replaced with a per-meeting payment at a level to be agreed by the Council.

Ruth Rogers
Chairman