

Appendix A

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

INDEPENDENT REMUERATION PANEL REVIEWING MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES HELD ON 24 OCTOBER 2008 AT SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE HALL

The Panel, consisting of Valerie Bright, Graham Jagger and Ruth Rogers met on 24 October 2008 to review the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2009/10. Ruth Rogers was appointed Chairman for the meeting.

In attendance by invitation and interviewed individually for the first part of the meeting were:

Cllr Richard Barrett, Group Leader for the Conservatives
Cllr Sebastian Kindersley, Group Leader for the Liberal Democrats
Cllr Ray Manning, Leader of the Council
Cllr Alex Riley, Group Convenor, Independents

The issues raised by the Councillors in attendance at the meeting were that the Panel give consideration to:

- (a) An increase in the Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) for members of Cabinet and the Standards Committee
- (b) A SRA for the Chair of the Northstowe Joint Development Control Committee and the Leader of the Minor Opposition Group
- (c) The abolition of the SRA for the Chair of Licensing Committee
- (d) No payment of an SRA be given to the Chairs of the Licensing (2003) Act
- (e) Increasing the Dependents' Carer's allowance
- (f) That at a future meeting of the Panel, consideration be given to the present situation whereby a basic allowance is given to all members irrespective of how many meetings they attend during the municipal year and whether recognition should be given to those more committed members that were involved in the Council's decision making process, eg Planning and Licensing Committees (clarification would be required on this point in terms of the lawfulness of withholding elements of the basic allowance in particular circumstances).

In addition to the issues raised above, the Panel considered the current Members' Allowances Scheme in its entirety and made the following recommendations for the Members' Allowances Scheme, effective from 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010 (unless specified otherwise):

- (1) In recognition of the work undertaken by Members, in particular those balancing work and council commitments, and in order to encourage people from a wide range of backgrounds and skills to serve as local councillors in the future and not suffer an unreasonable financial disadvantage, the basic allowance be increased by 3%.
- (2) The Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) for the Leader, Deputy Leader, Cabinet Members, Chairmen/Vice-Chairmen of Council, Scrutiny & Overview and Planning Committees; Chairmen of Corporate Governance and Employment Committees be increased by 3%.
- (3) In recognition of its standing, a SRA be awarded to the Convenor of the Minor Opposition Group; the amount to be 50% of the SRA payable to the Leader of the Major Opposition Group.

- (4) Having taken into account the reduction in the number of meetings held in the municipal year, the SRA for the Chairman of the Licensing Committee be gradually phased out; therefore, for 2009/10, the allowance to be reduced by 50% of the 2008/09 allowance.
- (5) No payments be made to Chairs of the Licensing (2003) Act panels.
- (6) In noting that the workload had substantially increased since April 2008, the SRA paid to the Chairman of the Standards Committee be increased to £1,000 pa, the Independent members allowance be increased to £600 pa and Parish members allowance be increased to £400 pa. The foregoing amounts to be backdated to 1 April 2008.
- (7) In recognition of the impact of the project on the district and, due to the position having comparable duties to those of the Planning Committee Chairman, an SRA of £4570 be payable to the Chair of the Northstowe Joint Development Control Committee. A backdated payment of £4437 from 1 April 2008 should also be paid. This particular SRA to apply only when the Chairman of the Committee is a South Cambridgeshire District councillor.
- (8) The Dependants' Carer's allowance to be increased by 3%.
- (9) No changes to be made to the Travel, Subsistence or Overnight Subsistence allowances.