

Item no

Report to: **District Council of Easington**
Date: **5 April 2007**
Report of: **Head of Democratic Services and Administration**
Subject: **Independent Remuneration Panel Report**
Ward: **All**

1 **Purpose of Report**

To consider the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the payment of basic and special responsibility allowances to Members and to consider a proposed revision to the Members Allowances Scheme.

2 **Consultation**

In preparing this report I have consulted with the Leader of the Council, the Executive Member for Resources, the Director of Finance and Corporate Services and the Payroll Manager.

3 **Background**

3.1 The Panel was first established in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2001 and is required to produce reports in relation to the remuneration of Members.

The Panel comprises of the following members:-

S Allen – Former Director of Finance Durham City Council
Professor R Hudson – Director of Durham University
Canon K Woodhouse
H Pattison – Former Public Relations Officer Asda

4 **Position Statement**

4.1 The Panel met to discuss and produce a report on the following issues:-

- (i) to consider the annual increase in basic and special responsibility allowances for 2007/8;
- (ii) to review the level of SRAs payable to the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Licensing Committee following the introduction of the Gambling Act 2005;
- (iii) to review the level of SRAs payable to the Chair and Vice-Chair of Audit Committee;

- (iv) to consider the inclusion of a provision within the Members Allowances Scheme specifying allowances payable for Members' travel abroad on Council business.

The Panel's meeting took place on 9 February 2007 and their findings and recommendations in relation to these issues are set out in the attached report (Appendix 1).

5 Implications

5.1 Legal

The proposals contained within the report meet the requirements of the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

5.2 Policy

The proposals contained in the report meet with the established policy of receiving recommendations in relation to Members' Allowances from an Independent Remuneration Panel.

5.3 Financial

Appropriate provision has been made within the budgets for members allowances for 2007/2008.

5.4 Risk

A risk assessment has been carried out and risks identified are within the corporate appetite.

5.5 Communications

The Panel's recommendations are available for public inspection and will be placed on the Council's website.

6 Corporate Implications

6.1 Corporate Plan and Priorities, Equality and Diversity, e-Government, Sustainability and Procurement

There are no implications. This report has been produced in accordance with statutory requirements.

7 Recommendation

Members are requested to give consideration to the recommendations of the Panel as outlined in Section 5 of their report.

Background Papers/Documents referred to in the preparation of this report

Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2001 and 2003
Independent Remuneration Panel Reports dated 17 September 2003 and 8 May
2006
Members Allowances Scheme

JE/MA/com dist/070301
8 March 2007