

Report of The

**Kirklees Council
Members' Allowances
Independent Review
Panel**

13 November 2012

Carl Whistlecraft
Head of Governance and Democratic Services
Crown Court Buildings, Princess Street
Huddersfield, HD1 2TT
01484 225774

1 Panel Membership

The Members of the Independent Review Panel are as follows:

Andrew Taylor (Chair)
Ian Brown
Chris West
Lynn Knowles
Stephen Thornton
Fiona Weston

The meeting of the Independent Review Panel took place on Tuesday 13 November 2012. Apologies were received from Lynn Knowles.

The following officers attended the Panel meeting:

Carl Whistlecraft, Head of Governance and Democratic Services
Deborah Nicholson, Councillor Support Team Leader, Governance and Democratic Services
Penny Bunker, Scrutiny and Governance Manager, Governance and Democratic Services

2 Terms of Reference

The Panel's Terms of Reference are:

- (a) To advise Council on what would be the appropriate level of remuneration for Councillors having regard to the:
 - Roles Councillors are expected to fulfil
 - Varying roles of different Councillors
 - Practice elsewhere and other Local Authorities.
- (b) To consider schemes of Members Allowances for Town and Parish Councils as and when required.
- (c) To make recommendations and provide advice to the Council on any other issues referred to the Panel by regulation or by the Council.
- (d) Council retains its power to remove a discredited Panel Member.
- (e) The Panel can appoint its Chair from amongst its Members.

3 Constitutional Issues

(1) Term of Office

All Members of the Panel were advised that their terms of office ended in September or November 2013. The issue would be considered again at the next meeting.

(2) Election of Chair of Independent Review Panel

Andrew Taylor was re-elected Chair of the Independent Review Panel.

4 Telephony/Information Technology

The Panel received, for information, an update on recent developments regarding information technology to facilitate future councillor working.

The Panel thanked officers for the work that had been undertaken on this issue.

AGREED - That there be a minor adjustment to the Members Allowances scheme to take account of the changes in technology provision.

5 Members Allowances Scheme 2013-14

The Panel considered any changes to the Members Allowances Scheme for 2012-13. In particular the Panel considered current and future arrangements with regards to the roles and allowances payable for the Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader and the Leader and Deputies of political groups.

To facilitate this the Panel received submissions from Councillors Khan, K Pinnock, D Hall, and Lyons. The Panel recognised that there were changes within Council responsibilities, particularly in relation to partnership working, however it was felt that these were not sufficiently embedded to determine the impact on individual role profiles. The Panel therefore determined to review these Special Responsibility Allowances at its next meeting in November 2013.

The Panel also discussed proposals relating to the allowance arrangements to be put in place in respect of the representatives on the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel. To facilitate the discussion the Panel received submissions from Councillors K Pinnock, D Hall, K Smith and Lyons.

In making its recommendations the Panel had regard to the continuing difficult economic climate and therefore, **the Panel recommends that:**

(a) Basic Allowance and SRAs

No changes be made to the allowances and rates currently contained in the scheme, with the exception of the following minor additions/amendments:-

(b) West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

Given that the extent of the duties and responsibilities for members of the Police and Crime Panel, is yet to be fully determined:-

The Panel recommends the introduction of a new allowance set at Band C1, £6,138 to be payable to the two Kirklees Members of the Police and Crime Panel. Subject to review in November 2013, when there is greater clarity of the requirements of the role.

(c) Education Appeal Panel Allowance

The Panel recommends minor amendments to the wording of the Education Appeal Panel Members Allowance to clarify the non payment of extended adjournment periods during admission appeal hearings.