

Report of The

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

18 November 2013

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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 Monday 18 November 2013. Apologies were received from Lynn Knowles.

The following officers attended the Panel meeting:

Carl Whistlecraft, Head of Governance and Democratic Services
Deborah Nicholson, Business Support Manager
Josephine Hallas, Governance and Democratic Engagement Officer, 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

(a) 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 was agreed that the current Panel membership be retained and that all relevant terms of office be renewed.

(b) Election of Chair of Independent Review Panel

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

4. Members Allowances Scheme 2014-15

The Panel considered any changes to the Members Allowances Scheme for 2014/15. In particular the Panel considered the following:

- (a) Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs)
- (b) The allowance payable to the two Kirklees Members of the Police and Crime Panel. As part of consideration of this item representation was made by Cllrs Hall and K Smith, the current Kirklees representatives.
- (c) The payment of SRAs for the positions of Chair of Policy Committees and the Neighbourhood Committee.
- (d) Consequential changes to the scheme with regards to data use and car parking.

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

(a) Basic Allowance and SRAs

That no changes be made to the allowances and rates currently contained in the scheme.

(b) West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

That the Allowance payable to the two Kirklees Members of the Police and Crime Panel continue to be paid at Band C1, £6,138. This to be subject of further review in November 2014

(c) SRA's for New Committees

That no Special Responsibility Allowance be paid to the Chairs of Policy Committees and the Neighbourhood Committee.

(d) Consequential Changes to the Scheme

That consequential changes be made to the scheme to reflect arrangements in respect of data use and car parking.