



**MINUTES of
INDEPENDENT MEMBERS' RENUMERATION PANEL
5 NOVEMBER 2018**

PRESENT

Russell Everard (RE)
Andrew Mungford (AM)
Anne Esplen (AE)
Emma Foy, Director of Resources (EF)
Tara Bird, Committee Services Officer

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made prior to the start of the meeting.

2. PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2018 / 19

EF outlined the reasons behind the calling of the Panel meeting. There were two items for consideration, whether:

- there should be guidelines regarding the acceptable level of out of pocket expenditure which is reclaimable from the Council when Members are travelling or attending events and conferences.
- the current Members' allowance scheme continues to provide value for money to the tax payer and whether it should be recognised and at what level.

The Panel Members were provided with additional information at the meeting which included the current Members' allowance and examples of documentation from other Local Authorities and the Local Governance Authority.

The Panel were informed of the report recently considered by the Council regarding the future operation of Area Planning Committees (APCs) and its decision to continue with three APCs. Director of Resources advised that the recording of the meeting could be made available to the Panel, if required.

It was requested and agreed that the Panel would be provided with a copy of the current Members' Allowances Scheme along with the Officer policy.

The Panel were advised that as part of their considerations meetings with Members' could be arranged and once they had drawn their conclusions these would be taken to the Finance and Corporate Services Committee for consideration.

APPENDIX B

AE referred the Panel to a document which had been used by the Panel at a previous meeting. It was titled “Members remuneration – Models, issues, incentives and barriers” and published by the Councillors Commission in 2007. EF advised that she would try to locate a current version of this document and circulate it to Members.

The Panel agreed that it would be available to meet with Members of the Council on Monday 19 and Monday 26 November 2018 in the afternoon.

At this point EF left the meeting.

The Panel discussed the documents that were circulated by EF, and particular reference was made to documents from Epping Forest and Stevenage Councils and the policies they had in place in respect of Member allowances.

The data regarding APCs contained in the report to the Council was discussed and the Panel felt it would be useful to have additional data to provide further clarification on how the number of applications considered by APCs had reduced.

Following further discussions the Panel requested the following:

- information from the HMRC in respect of Members’ allowances;
- additional data regarding APCs, the number of applications received and length of meetings – the Panel requested data going back as far as possible, ideally ten years;
- the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 13 September 2018;
- an extract of the sound recording from the Council meeting held on 13 September 2018;
- the policy that details Officers’ subsistence rates;
- contemporaneous notes from the Council meeting held on 13 September 2018 (subject to EF approval).

Further to agreement of the next two dates for meetings of the Panel, it was agreed that Members should be advised that they could meet privately with the panel and either as an individual or in groups. The Panel suggested that it met at 2pm with Member meetings starting from 3pm.

The meeting closed at 3:30pm.