

Report to be considered by: Council

**Purpose of Report:**

To consider the recommendations of the West Berkshire Independent Remuneration Panel.

**Recommended Action:**

That the Council considers and determines the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel set out below:

- (1) That the Special Responsibility Allowance payable to the Chairmen of the Area Forums in the sum of £1,062 be abolished with effect from 1 April 2004.
- (2) A new Special Responsibility Allowance of £4,250 in relation to the Chairman of the Licensing Committee be introduced with effect from 1 April 2004.
- (3) That the ICT Allowance for each Member be increased from £250 to £350 with effect from 1 April 2004 to part compensate Members for the additional costs associated with signing up to Broadband or other suitable dial-up facility (ie ISDN).
- (4) That Members who do not sign up to either Broadband, dial up or other suitable connection (ie ISDN) forgo the additional ICT Allowance of £100.
- (5) That the Council introduce an allowance for the Chairman of the Standards Committee based on a per meeting allowance of £100 up to a maximum of £1,000 in any one year.
- (6) That the Council adopt a Travel Scheme allowance based on the Inland Revenue rate.
- (7) That the Council adopt a Subsistence Allowance Scheme based on the rates set out in Paragraph 5.26.

List of other options considered:

None

Key background documentation:

Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

**Portfolio Member:** Leader of the Council

**Tele No:**

**E-Mail Address:**

**Contact Officer Details**

**Name:** Andy Day

**Job Title:** Policy Manager

**Tel. No.:** 01635 519459

**E-mail Address:** aday@westberks.gov.uk

## Supporting Information

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### 1. Background

- 1.1 The Council will recall that, at its meeting on 9 December 2003, it considered the report of the West Berkshire Independent Remuneration Panel making a number of recommendations in relation to Pension for Members and the Basic Allowance having regard to the new responsibilities associated with the Licensing Act 2003.
- 1.2 The Council also asked the Independent Remuneration Panel to look at Travel and Subsistence Allowances and Co-optees Allowances. In submitting their report the Panel has taken into account a number of views expressed by the Constitution Task Group.

### Appendices

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Appendix 14 – Report of the West Berkshire Independent Remuneration Panel

### Implications

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<b>Policy:</b>	The report accords with the Council's duty to review Members' Allowances.
<b>Financial:</b>	<p>(i) If the Council agrees to abolish the Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) for Chairmen of Area Forums and introduce an SRA for the Chairman of the Licensing Committee of £4,250 then there will be no cost implications in relation to the approved 2004/05 approved Revenue Budget.</p> <p>(ii) If the Council agrees to increase the ICT Allowance for each Member from £250 to £350 then this will create a budget pressure in the 2004/05 Revenue Budget of £5,200 should all Members claim this allowance.</p> <p>(iii) If the Council agrees to introduce an allowance for the Chairman of the Standards Committee based on a per meeting allowance of £100 up to a maximum of £1,000 then this will create a budget pressure of up to £1,000.</p> <p>(iv) If the Council agrees to increase the Subsistence rates to the levels set out in Paragraph 5.26 of the Independent Remuneration Panel's report then depending on the level of claims there may be a small increase in the approved budget.</p>
<b>Legal:</b>	The process followed in reviewing the Allowances meets the requirements of the Regulations.

### Consultation Responses

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<b>Local Stakeholders:</b>	None
<b>Officers Consulted:</b>	Nick Carter, David Holling
<b>Trade Union:</b>	N/A