

Title of Report:	Recommendations of the West Berkshire Council Independent Remuneration Panel 2011
Report to be considered by:	Council
Date of Meeting:	3 rd March 2011
Forward Plan Ref:	C2204

Purpose of Report: To inform Council of the recommendations of the West Berkshire Council Independent Remuneration Panel 2011.

Recommended Action: To agree the recommendations of the West Berkshire Council Independent Remuneration Panel 2011.

Reason for decision to be taken: In light of the forthcoming District Council Elections in May 2011 and the need for the Council to set its budget, the West Berkshire Independent Remuneration Panel was asked to review the whole Scheme of Members Allowances. In accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, the Council must have regard to the recommendations of an Independent Remuneration Panel before making or amending their Scheme of Allowances.

Other options considered: N/A

Key background documentation: The report of the West Berkshire Council Independent Remuneration Panel 2011.

The proposals will also help achieve the following Council Plan Themes:

- CPT7 - Safer and Stronger Communities**
- CPT14 - Effective People**

Portfolio Member Details	
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Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	17/2/11
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Implications

- Policy:** The West Berkshire Council Members Allowances Scheme will need to be amended as a result of any changes agreed by Council.
- Financial:** The removal of the Select Committees from the Governance structures would result in a saving of £20,495 per annum.
- The removal of the allowances paid to those Members involved in the Licensing and Appeals processes would result in a saving of approximately £6,361.41 per annum (based on 2009 - 2010 figures).
- The removal of the payment of the Conference Attendance Allowance will result of a saving of approximately £500 per annum.
- The proposed increase in the Childcare and Dependent Carers' Allowance is expected to have a minimal impact on claims. Any pressures will be met from existing budgets.
- Personnel:** N/A
- Legal/Procurement:** N/A
- Property:** N/A
- Risk Management:** N/A
- Equalities Impact Assessment:** Completed

Is this item subject to call-in?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If not subject to call-in please put a cross in the appropriate box:		
The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council		<input type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position		<input type="checkbox"/>
Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Commission or associated Task Groups within preceding six months		<input type="checkbox"/>
Item is Urgent Key Decision		<input type="checkbox"/>

Executive Summary and Report

1. Introduction

1.1 In accordance with the decision made by Council on 31st January 2011, the West Berkshire Council Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) met on 10th February 2011 to consider the whole Scheme of Members Allowances as follows:

- Basic Allowance.
- Special Responsibility Allowances.
- Allowances for co-optees (including the independent members of the Standards Committee).
- Childcare and Dependent Carers Allowance.
- Appeal and Licensing Sub-Committee Allowances
- ICT Allowance.
- Travelling Allowance.
- Subsistence Allowance.
- Conference Allowance.
- Pensions.
- The administration of the scheme (including the renunciation and suspension of allowances).

1.2 A copy of the report of the IRP is attached for information at Appendix A. Under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, the Council was required to publish the recommendations of the panel and will be required to publish the new Scheme of Allowances when it is agreed.

2. Proposals

2.1 Council is asked to agree the recommendations of the West Berkshire Independent Remuneration Panel 2011 as set out below:

- (1) The Basic Allowance of £6,148.95 (including an IT allowance of £200 to cover Broadband) remains unchanged. The associated payments to those Members involved in the Licensing and Appeals processes be removed from the scheme and be no longer paid (see recommendation 6).
- (2) The Special Responsibility Allowances remain unchanged. In the event of the deletion of the Select Committees from the Council's Governance structures the role of Chairmen of these committees will disappear along with their appropriate allowances.

- (3) With reference to the payment of Special Responsibility Allowances to Opposition Spokesmen, the payment scheme be amended to clarify that the allowances are payable to 'up to' seven Members of the opposition.
- (4) The allowances paid to co-opted members be retained and not amended.
- (5) The Childcare and Dependents' Carers' Allowance be increased to £6.00 per hour up to a maximum of 40 hours per month per Councillor.
- (6) The allowances paid to those Members involved in Licensing Sub-Committees and Appeals processes (up to £750 per annum) be removed from the scheme and no longer paid.
- (7) The provision of ICT consumables by the Council up to a monetary ceiling of £200 per Member per year be retained and not amended.
- (8) The existing Travelling Allowance rates be retained and not amended.
- (9) The existing Subsistence Allowances be retained and not amended.
- (10) The Conference Attendance Allowance of £30.39 for whole or part days away from home be removed from the scheme and no longer paid.
- (11) The current pension arrangements be retained and not amended.
- (12) The Administration of the Scheme remain unchanged. Allowances to be index linked to the Local Government Pay Award until 2015.
- (13) The current West Berkshire Scheme of Members Allowances be amended in line with the recommendations above. The new Scheme be implemented from 5th May 2011.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 The West Berkshire Council Scheme of Members Allowances will be updated in accordance with the recommendations above. The new scheme will be implemented following the District Council Election in 2011.

Appendices

Appendix A – The report of the Independent Remuneration Panel 2011.

Consultees

Local Stakeholders: N/A

Officers Consulted: David Holling, Andy Day and Moira Fraser.

Trade Union: N/A