

Report of	Meeting	Date
Chief Executive (Introduced by the Leader of the Council)	Executive Cabinet	17 February 2011

REVIEW OF THE MEMBERS ALLOWANCES SCHEME

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To advise Members that in line with the requirements of the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 the Council is required to instruct the Independent Remuneration Panel to review the current Members Allowances Scheme and make recommendations on any changes to the Scheme for determination by a full Council meeting.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- That the report be noted and any specific comments of the Executive Cabinet on the current Member Allowances Scheme be passed to the Independent Remuneration Panel.
- That Council be recommended to appoint Allan Jones, Chair of Chorley Partnership Board, as the third Member of the Independent Remuneration Panel for a period of three years with the existing Panel members, Dennis Benson and Tom Waring also being reappointed for the next three years.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Strong Family Support		Education and Jobs	
Being Healthy		Pride in Quality Homes and Clean Neighbourhoods	
Safe Respectful Communities		Quality Community Services and Spaces	
Vibrant Local Economy		Thriving Town Centre, Local Attractions and Villages	
A Council that is a consistently Top Performing Organisation and Delivers Excellent Value for Money			✓

BACKGROUND

- The current Members Allowances Scheme was agreed in 2007 and the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 state that schemes should be reviewed as a minimum every four years. Minor changes to the current scheme were agreed in 2008 to reflect changing Committee roles but a full review is now due. The process is that the Independent Remuneration Panel meet and make recommendations which are then put forward for full Council's consideration. They may consult Councillors on any suggested changes as part of the process.

INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL (IRP)

6. The current IRP is made up of three members of the public – Dennis Benson, John Cowdall and Tom Waring. All but John Cowdall are interested in continuing in this role and therefore a third member of the Panel needs to be appointed. The Regulations state that Panels should consist of a minimum of three people. It is suggested that the Chair of the Chorley Partnership Board be approached to sit on the Panel. He has some knowledge of the role and organisation of local government, has no strong political party links and represents the business sector within the borough. These criteria are in line with the Regulations which encourage participation from stakeholder representatives from the private and voluntary sectors.
7. The current Members Allowances Scheme has worked reasonably well although changes to Committee roles and responsibilities and the frequency of meetings means it is now appropriate and timely to review the scheme. The review will look at levels of remuneration as well as eligibility for travel, subsistence etc. It will also make comparisons with other Lancashire and CIPFA “nearest neighbour” authorities.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

8. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors’ comments are included:

Finance	✓	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal	✓	No significant implications in this area	

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSFORMATION (HEAD OF GOVERNANCE)

9. The review is required under Government regulations and the proposals for the review meet the requirements of good governance. It is timely in the current financial climate to consider the scheme and whether it still adequately reflects the roles and responsibilities of elected members.

GARY HALL
DIRECTOR OF TRANSFORMATION

Background Papers			
Document	Date	File	Place of Inspection
Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003	2003		Democratic Services
Current Members Allowances Scheme	2010		Council Constitution

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Carol Russell	5196	13 January 2011	