

Report of	Meeting	Date
Chief Executive	Council	23 September 2008

MEMBERS ALLOWANCES' SCHEME

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel to the Council in relation to Members Allowances.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

- To establish the following special responsibility allowances with effect from the Annual Meeting held on 13 May 2008:

Overview and Scrutiny allowances

£2500.00 Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

£300.00 as a one off payment to any Councillor chairing a Task and Finish Group on completion of the inquiry.

Equality Forum Chair

£1362.92 Equality Forum Chair.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- Following a review of the Committee structure, the Annual Meeting of the Council adopted a number of changes. These included amendments to the Overview and Scrutiny structure and the merging of the Disability Liaison Group and Ethnic Minorities Consultative Committee into the Equality Forum, to better represent all seven strands of the equality agenda. The Independent Remuneration Panel were requested to review remuneration to reflect changes in Members' responsibilities.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the Central Lancashire sub-region		Develop local solutions to climate change.	
Improving equality of opportunity and life chances		Develop the Character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	
Involving people in their communities	√	Ensure Chorley Borough Council is a performing organization	

BACKGROUND

5. Allowances can only be paid to Members of local authorities in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, as amended by the Local Government Act 2000 and supplemented by the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003. These statutory provisions require local authorities to make a formal Scheme of Allowances for their Members and to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel to make recommendations to Councils about their Schemes. The Council is required to have regard to recommendations that have been made by its Independent Remuneration Panel. The members of the Independent Remuneration Panel are: Mr Dennis Benson (Chair), Mr John Cowdall and Mr Tom Waring.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

6. The new structure of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee deletes the two Panels and therefore the two Panel Special Responsibility Allowances. There is now just one overarching Overview and Scrutiny Committee and a range of Task and Finish Groups who will deal with inquiries.
7. There is currently no allowance for the Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Vice-Chair would assume the responsibility for the Committee in the absence of the Chair. If the Vice-Chair chaired a Task and Finish Group the additional payment would not be made.
8. Task and Finish Groups also support the scrutiny structure, undertaking reviews of service areas and issues. They are likely to meet between four and six times, usually over a few months. Chairs are expected to lead the direction of the inquiry and this may include additional meetings with officers.

CHAIR OF THE EQUALITY FORUM

9. Previously there was an Ethnic Minorities Consultative Committee and a Disability Liaison Group meeting quarterly. These did not attract Special Responsibility Allowances. The newly created Equality Forum has a challenging role in consulting with all seven strands of the equality agenda. Whilst the Forum will only meet quarterly, there is likely to be a range of other meetings, task groups and meetings with partners.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

10. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Corporate Directors' comments are included:

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

COMMENTS OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION)

11. It is anticipated that the financial effect of the proposals contained in this report will be broadly cost neutral and can therefore be met from within the Council's existing budget resources.

COMMENTS OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE

12. The Council is entitled to amend the Remuneration Scheme as it wishes but must have proper regard to the recommendations of the Panel.

DONNA HALL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Background Papers			
Document	Date	File	Place of Inspection
Independent Remuneration Panel agenda	11 July 2008	Independent Remuneration Panel	Democratic Services office

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Carol Russell / Ruth Hawes	515196 / 515118	2 September 2008	T: Committees, Ad Hoc, IRP