

REPORT TO THE COUNCIL



DATE	20 th December 2012
PORTFOLIO	None
REPORT AUTHORs	Terry Hephrun, Graham Knott, Brenda Rochester, David Sparrow, Anne Slater
TEL NO	01282 477258
EMAIL	igrady@burnley.gov.uk

Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on the Members' Allowance Scheme for 2013/14

PURPOSE

1. To consider the findings of the Independent Remuneration Panel in respect of a Members' Allowance Scheme for 2013/14

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Council considers the recommendations of the IRP for the scheme of members' allowances for 2013/14.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. The Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 require that before Council can determine its Members Allowance Scheme for the ensuing year it must consider a report from the Independent Remuneration Panel.

The Panel is required to publish its findings prior to a final decision being taken by Council in February 2013.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

4. This year the Independent Remuneration Panel has carried out its review of the members' allowances scheme and the Panel's report is attached at appendix 1.
5. **Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA)**
As part of its deliberations this year the Panel has reviewed the schedule of Special Responsibility Allowances. Special responsibility allowances can be paid for duties that fall within certain categories one of which is presiding at meetings of a committee. The Regulations do not limit the number of SRAs which may be paid, nor do the regulations prohibit the payment of more than one SRA to any one member.

There have been changes to the Standards structure and the Panel has concluded that a payment should be made to the Chair of the Standards Committee equivalent to that payable to the Chairs of Licensing Committee and Audit Committee, and also that

the two Independent Members to the Standards Committee should be paid an allowance of £500 per annum. The rationale for this is included in the Panel's report at appendix 1.

6. **Comparative data with neighbouring authorities 2012**

Each year the Panel carries out benchmarking with neighbouring authorities. The basic allowance currently paid to Burnley councillors is £2,700 and this is the lowest paid when compared 10 other allowance paid at neighbouring authorities. The level of allowance paid to the Leader is mid table.

<u>Basic allowance</u>		<u>Leaders*</u>	
West Lancs	4,842	Hyndburn	25,457
Hyndburn	4,709	Wyre	23,000
Chorley	4,242	Chorley	21,285
Wyre	4,020	Burnley	17,550
Preston	3,567	Ribble Valley	17,066
Fylde	3,500	West Lancs	16,943
Rossendale	3,342	Rossendale	16,710
Lancaster	3,300	Fylde	14,396
Pendle	3,000	Lancaster	14,360
Ribble Valley	2,844	Preston	12,411
Burnley	2,700	Pendle	10,500

*Leaders allowances are made up of a combination of Leaders allowance + basic+ other SRAs and in some instances + Group Leader allowance

The Panel concluded that there was justification in rebalancing the allowances to provide a more equitable split between basic allowance and special responsibility allowances. The only way to achieve this and stay within the current budget availability was by adjusting the multipliers used for the special responsibility allowances.

7. **Survey of members**

This year a questionnaire was sent to all council members and an analysis is provided in the Panel's report at appendix 1. The Panel concluded that there was some dissatisfaction with the basic allowance. The Panel has always maintained that members should not be out of pocket as a result of carrying out their duties and that the level of basic allowance should not be a deterrent to potential candidates who wish to become elected, especially those from diverse and under-represented groups.

The Panel's approach to reallocate remuneration in a more equitable way will provide an increase in the total basic allowance of £200 per annum to each of the 45 members whilst keeping within the budget of £188,670 as set for 2012/13.

The Panel is recommending that the budget for 2013/14 should not be increased and that it should remain at the 2012/13 level.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION
--

8. The draft budget and the proposals for the members' allowance scheme for 2013/14 is

shown at appendix 2 to this report. It includes a 3% inflationary increase for 2013/14 on top of the £188,670 budget for 2012/13, making a total budget availability of £194,330.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

9. Council must have regard to the IRPs recommendations before it takes a decision on the setting of a members allowance scheme

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

10. Member Structures Support Working Group

BACKGROUND PAPERS

11. None

FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT:

Imelda Grady Ext 7258

ALSO: