



REPORT NO: GA.27 12/13

**Governance and Audit
Committee**

20 December 2012

Subject: Review of Members' Allowances for 2013/14

Report by:

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Purpose / Summary:

To inform Members of Recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) with regard to the Scheme of Members' Allowances for 2013/14.

RECOMMENDATION:

- (i) That Council considers the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel.**

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: None related to this report.

Financial : None

Staffing : None related to this report.

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :
*NB: A full impact assessment **HAS TO BE** attached if the report relates to any new or revised policy or revision to service delivery/introduction of new services.*

Risk Assessment : N/A

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities : N/A

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:
None

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

Yes

No

Key Decision:

Yes

No

1. Background

- 1.1 West Lindsey District Council's Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP), has carried out a review of the Council's Scheme of Members' Allowances.
- 1.2 To inform the review, the Panel has considered a number of factors, including figures paid by neighbouring and comparative authorities. The evidence reviewed by the Panel indicates that the current Scheme of Allowances is robust and there is general agreement that, the Scheme is transparent, simple to administer and easily understood.
- 1.3 The Panel also received details of the Council's budget situation from the Head of Service Central Services.
- 1.4 In order to gauge the views of Members the Group Leaders were invited to a meeting of the Remuneration Panel on 11 September 2012.
- 1.5 The Panel met with three of the Group Leaders and received written comments from the Leader of the Council. These written comments and comments made by the three Group leaders during the discussions have been taken into account by the Panel when arriving at their final recommendations in this Report.
- 1.6 Recent changes to the Committee structure were discussed and the Panel questioned the Group Leaders in order to establish the resulting effect on workloads and time spent on Council business. The group leaders did not indicate that there had been a significant change over the last 12 months. In addition they felt that any increase would not be appropriate in the current economic climate.
- 1.7 Members will recall that a decision was taken by Council last year for there to be no overall increase to Members' Allowances for 2012/13.
- 1.8 Whilst mindful of the need for caution in increasing allowances, the Panel are well aware of the dangers of remuneration failing to adequately compensate for the role. The longer any freeze on increases goes on the more allowance will fall behind inflationary pressures and this may prove difficult to rectify in the future. Comments regarding the current mileage allowance rate were also taken into consideration.
- 1.9 The Panel would like to record its thanks to those Members and Officers who made themselves available to talk to the Panel.

2. Panel Recommendations

2.1. Basic Allowance

The Panel were firmly of the view that, under normal circumstances they would have been recommending an increase in Basic Allowance, however, due to the current economic climate and in line with the 0% increase in salary for West Lindsey District Council Employees, the Panel regrettably recommends no increase to Basic Allowance or Special Responsibility Allowance.

2.2. SRA – Special Responsibility Allowances

		£
i)	Leader of the Council	No Change 11,458
ii)	Deputy Leader/s	No Change 3,646
iii)	Leader of the Opposition	No Change 3,646
iv)	Deputy Leader of the Opposition	No Change 750
v)	Minority Group Leaders Per Group Member	No Change 83
vi)	Chair & Vice Chair of Council (this amount to be apportioned at year end to whoever takes the chair)	No Change 2,604
vii)	The Chairs of Policy & Resources & Prosperous Communities Committees	No Change 2,604
viii)	The Chair of Planning Committee	No Change 3,255
ix)	The Chairs of Governance & Audit & Challenge & Improvement Committees	No Change 2,604
x)	The Chair of Licensing & Regulatory Committee	No Change 2,604
xi)	Chair of Chief Officer Employment	No Change 2,604
xii)	Vice Chairs of Committees (Not Licensing & Regulatory or Chief Officer Employment Ctte)	No Change 1,250
xiii)	Chair Taxi & General Sub Committee	1,250
xiv)	No change to the allowances for Co-optees, Dependent Carers or travel allowances, noting that the Car Allowance has already increased to 0.45 per mile in accordance with the tax efficient rate authorised by the Inland Revenue.	
xv)	Subsistence – No change (Receipts must be provided for subsistence claimed and attached to the claim form).	
	a. Absence of more than four hours but no more than eight hours – only the cost of one meal can be reimbursed up to a maximum of £15.	

- b. Absence of more than eight hours but no more than 12 hours – only the cost of two meals can be reimbursed up to a maximum of £25.
- c. Absence of more than 12 hours but no more than 16 hours – only the cost of three meals can be reimbursed up to a maximum of £33.
- d. Absence of more than 16 hours but not including an overnight stay – only the cost of four meals can be reimbursed up to a maximum of £40.
- e. Overnight – No Change – £83
- f. Overnight (London or LGA) – No Change – £208