

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>15 JULY 2011</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES</b>
<b>REPORT BY:</b>	<b>ASSISTANT DIRECTOR LAW, GOVERNANCE AND RESILIENCE</b>

**CLASSIFICATION:** Open

### **Wards Affected**

County-wide

### **Purpose**

To consider a report on the payment of special responsibility allowances to Vice-Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

### **Recommendation(s)**

**THAT special responsibility allowances be payable as follows:**

- to the Vice-Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with responsibility for Health and Wellbeing the sum of £4,000 per annum;
- to all other such Vice-Chairmen the sum of £3,500 per annum.

### **Alternative Options**

- 1 The Council can decide to approve the proposed rate of payment or suggest another level of payment.

### **Reasons for Recommendations**

- 2 To comply with the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) that a Special Responsibility Allowance be payable to Chairmen of Task and Finish Groups.

### **Introduction and Background**

- 3 In May the Council approved an amended Councillors' Allowances Scheme. The Council accepted the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel that a Special Responsibility Allowance be payable in principle to Chairmen of Scrutiny Task and Finish Groups, subject to the total amount currently payable to the 5 Chairmen of Scrutiny Committees not being exceeded, the level of such Allowances to be determined in accordance with a Scheme to be prepared by the Assistant Director Law, Resilience and

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
John Jones, Electoral Services Manager, on (01432) 260110

Governance and submitted to Council for approval.

- 4 At the time of preparing that report the detail of how the new scrutiny model would operate was still to be developed. At the Council meeting in May Council appointed 6 Vice-Chairmen from within the Membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It is now confirmed that the Vice-Chairmen will lead on themed areas of scrutiny work as follows:

Children & Education – Cllr TM James

Corporate Services – Cllr EPJ Harvey

Enterprise & Culture – Cllr A Seldon

Environment, Housing & Planning – Cllr PJ Watts

Health & Wellbeing – Cllr JW Millar

Highways, Transportation & Waste – Cllr R Preece

5. The proposed level of allowance is £3,500 to each Councillor with the exception of the Vice-Chairman for the Health and Wellbeing theme which is considered to carry an additional workload to whom it is proposed that an allowance of £4,000 be payable.

## Key Considerations

- The Council is asked to endorse the suggested amounts of special responsibility allowances for Vice Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

## Community Impact

- 6 None

## Financial Implications

- 7 The budget for Special Responsibility Allowances for the five Chairmen of the former Scrutiny Committees was £43,975. The proposal in this report envisages expenditure of £21,500 in a full year, an annual saving of £22,475.

## Legal Implications

- 8 The Council is required to take account of the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel when fixing Members Allowances

## Risk Management

- 9 Failure to fix these allowances at an adequate level could attract adverse publicity at a time of economic austerity.

## Consultees

- 10 The matter has been to the Independent Remuneration Panel.

## **Appendices**

None

## **Background Papers**

- None identified.