

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL**

**8 February 2017**

**Report of the Chief Executive**

**INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL – ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17**

**1 Purpose of the Report**

To receive the Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for 2016-17.

**2 Information and Analysis**

It is a requirement of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 that the Council appoint an Independent Panel on Members' Allowances to consider issues and put forward recommendations for the Council to consider in relation to the Members' Allowances Scheme. The Regulations also include a requirement for the Panel to make an Annual report to Council on its recent activities. Attached as an Appendix is the report for 2016-17.

**3 Other Considerations**

In preparing this report, the relevance of the following factors has been considered; legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, environmental, financial, health, human resources, property, social value and transport considerations.

**4 Background Papers**

Files held by the Director of Legal Services.

**5 OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

That the Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for 2016-17 be received.

**IAN STEPHENSON  
Chief Executive**

**Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel**

**Derbyshire County Council**

January 2017

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**Schedule 1 – Current Special Responsibility Allowances**

## 1. Background

**1.1** The current Derbyshire County Council Independent Remuneration Panel comprises five members, none of whom are members of the Council or any of its committees, nor an employee of the Council. The members are:

- **Mr Ian Orford (Chair)**  
Former Senior Bank Official, part-time Consultant, member of Derbyshire Dales District Council IRP. Member since September 2012.
- **Mrs Pat Boyle**  
Magistrate, former Bank Official, member of Derbyshire Dales District Council IRP. Member since June 2013.
- **Mr Denis Heaney**  
Former Investigations Manager HMRC, previously an Independent Member of the Derbyshire Police Authority Standards Committee and the County Council's Standards Committee. Member since December 2014
- **Mr Andrew Sharpe**  
Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer for a number of Parish Councils in Derbyshire. Former Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer with Erewash Borough Council. Member since December 2014
- **Mr Simon Westwood**  
Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Children Board for the City of Salford Council and the City of York Council. Worked for the County Council until 2000, having held the posts of Head of Planning and Projects and Head of Planning and Strategic Development. Member since December 2014

**1.2** The panel has met three times during 2016.

## 2. Terms of Reference

**2.1** The Local Government Act 2000 and the Consolidated Members' Allowances Regulations 2003, and subsequent amendments, require Independent Remuneration Panels to offer advice and rules on what Councillors may claim as expenses and allowances. Specifically they consider the following allowances:

- Basic allowance
- Special responsibility allowance
- Child care and dependent carer's allowance
- Pensions for members
- Travel and subsistence allowances
- Co-optee allowances
- Provision for suspension of allowances in certain circumstances
- Suitability of an index for allowances and what that index might be.

**2.2** All recommendations are to be published and considered by all Councillors and must be voted on by the full Council.

### **3. Process of the Review**

As this is the final year of the current administration, the panel felt it appropriate to restrict their work to reviewing the extant allowances and ensuring that these remain relevant.

In reaching this decision the following factors were taken into consideration:

- There have been no significant changes in the structure of the Council.
- The Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances are linked to NJCLGS pay awards.

The panel has held meetings with the Leader of the Council and with Senior Officers of the Council and we are grateful for their continued time and support.

### **4. Review of Progress**

#### **4.1 SRA for Elected Members of Adoption and Fostering Panels**

The panel are pleased to note the introduction of SRAs for these members following the recommendation made in our last report.

#### **4.2 Role Profiles**

The panel are pleased to note that the Role Profiles established following the restructuring of the Council's administrative structures in 2013 have now been finalised.

#### **4.3 Indexation of Basic Allowance and SRA**

The panel are pleased to see that the 1% pay award agreed by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services, from 1 April 2016, was automatically applied and note that a further similar increase is due to be implemented in 2017.

#### **4.4 The Basic Allowance**

Following the application of the increase detailed in 4.3, the Basic Allowance is £10,371 per annum. Our analysis of allowances paid to members of other Councils shows that the Derbyshire Basic Allowance is in the mid-range of Basic Allowances paid by other comparable 'Shire' counties. The Panel, therefore, does not recommend any change.

#### **4.5 Special Responsibility Allowances**

Following the application of the increase detailed in 4.3, the 100% SRA payable to the Leader of the Council is £34,269. All other SRAs are paid relative to this rate as detailed in Schedule 1.

#### **4.6 Leader of the Main Opposition Group**

The SRA payable to The Leader of the Main Opposition Group is currently variable, with a higher figure available if they take a seat on Cabinet. In our report last year we recommended that this should be replaced by a single, non-dependent, allowance. The panel remains of this view, but acknowledges that this recommendation was considered and rejected by Council and therefore are not making a formal recommendation this year.

#### **4.7 Processing and Transparency of Expenses Claims**

The panel are pleased to see that the full details of Members' Expense Claims are speedily made available to all interested parties via the Council's website.

## **5. Work Programme for 2017/18**

The panel intend to continue to keep under review all aspects of the allowances paid to Members.

The panel do not intend to meet again during this administration.

Following the Local Government Elections in May 2017 the panel will reconvene and over the course of the summer intend to meet:

- The Leader of the Council.
- The Leader of the Main Opposition Group.

This will enable us to establish our work programme for the ensuing period, which will take into account any changes to the structure of the Council or changes to the responsibilities of Members in receipt of SRAs.

We also intend to keep under review the Devolution Agenda, particularly with regard to changes in the responsibilities and workload of Cabinet Members and others in receipt of SRAs.

The panel would welcome input from any Elected Member or Officer with regard other work they should undertake in the next civic year.

## **6. Conclusion**

In preparing this report, and the recommendations contained herein, the Panel wishes to thank those Members and Council officers who contributed to our discussions and assisted the Panel in its work.

**Special Responsibility Allowances**

<b>Post</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Relative Responsibility %</b>
<b>Council</b>		
Chair	1	25.0%
Vice-Chair	1	12.5%
<b>Cabinet</b>		
Leader	1	100.0%
Deputy Leader	1	80.0%
Portfolio Holder	4	60.0%
<b>Leader of Main Opposition Group with a seat on Cabinet or Leader of Main Opposition Group without a seat on Cabinet</b>	1	45.0%
		25.0%
<b>Leader of Minority Opposition Group (with at least 10% of Council Members)</b>	1	15.0%
<b>Deputy Cabinet Member</b>	9	30.0%
<b>Improvement and Scrutiny Committees</b>		
Chair	4	25.0%
Vice-Chair	4	12.5%
<b>Regulatory Committees</b>		
Chair	2	25.0%
Vice-Chair	2	12.5%
<b>Standards Committee</b>		
Chair	1	15.0%
Vice-Chair	1	7.5%
<b>Audit Committee</b>		
Chair	1	15.0%
Vice-Chair	1	7.5%
<b>Pensions &amp; Investments</b>		
Chair	1	15.0%
Vice- Chair	1	7.5%
<b>Fostering Panel</b>	2	N/A
<b>Adoption Panel</b>	2	N/A

- A member cannot be in receipt of more than two SRAs at any one time.
- The SRA for the Vice-Chairman of the Council will only be paid where the member concerned is not in receipt of any other SRA of at least 15%.