

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 21 FEBRUARY 2007

REPORT BY HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

11. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

WARDS AFFECTED: None

'D' RECOMMENDATION – that (A) the Council's Members' Allowances Scheme be amended to provide for the payment of a Special Responsibility Allowance to a Leader of a minority political group on the basis detailed in the report now submitted, and

(B) the allowance referred to in (A) above be paid for the period commencing from the Annual Meeting in 2006.

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To consider a report of the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel on an allowance for a Leader of a minority political group.

2.0 Contribution to the Council's Corporate Objectives

2.1 The issue of Members' Allowances ties in with the Council's corporate objective to deliver responsible community leadership and engage with its partners and the public. Specifically, allowances help support individuals to participate in the work of the Council and in the democratic process.

3.0 Background

3.1 Council, at its Annual Meeting in 2006, agreed to provide for the payment of a special responsibility allowance to a Leader of a minority political group. In so doing, it also agreed that the level of such an allowance be determined following receipt of a report on this matter from its Remuneration Panel.

- 3.2 The Remuneration Panel has now considered the payment of a special responsibility allowance to a Leader of minority political groups. Its report is attached at Appendix 'A11' (Pages 84 - 88).
- 4.0 Proposal
- 4.1 Council has the discretion to include in its Members' Allowances Scheme provision for the payment of special responsibility allowances to those Councillors who have significant responsibilities.
- 4.2 Special responsibility allowances may be paid for special responsibilities associated with a number of defined statutory categories including acting as Leader or Deputy Leader of a political group with the Authority.
- 4.3 Members have before them a report of the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel on the level of special responsibility allowance to be paid to a Leader of a minority political group.
- 4.4. Before it can amend its scheme of allowances, Council has to have regard to the recommendations of its Panel.
- 5.0 Consultation
- 5.1 This subject matter has been considered by the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel. The Panel's recommendations have been submitted for the Council's consideration.
- 6.0 Legal Implications
- 6.1 None.
- 7.0 Financial Implications
- 7.1 The cost of any special responsibility allowance to a Leader of a minority political group will be met from within existing budgets.
- 8.0 Human Resource Implications
- 8.1 None.
- 9.0 Risk Management Implications
- 9.1 None.

10.0 Conclusion

- 10.1 Council is invited to adopt the recommendation at the head of this report.

Background Papers

Independent Remuneration Panel's report (see Appendix 'A11' (Pages 84 - 88))

Contact Officer: Jeff Hughes, Head of Democratic Services – Ext 2170