

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

HELD IN THE MEMBERS ROOM, OADBY & WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OFFICES

ON MONDAY 12 OCTOBER 2015

IN ATTENDANCE:

Laurie Faulkner, Panel Member David Wood, Panel Member John Whiting, Panel Member Mark Hall, Chief Executive Melanie Phillips, Democratic Services Manager, NWLDC

MINUTE REF	AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
15/01	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
	There were no apologies for absence.	N/A
15/02	ELECTION OF CHAIR	
	<u>RESOLVED</u> :- That Laurie Faulkner be appointed Chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel for the ensuing civic year.	N/A
45/00		
15/03	UPDATE SINCE BOROUGH ELECTIONS IN MAY 2015	
	Mark Hall updated the Panel on the outcome of the elections in May whereby all the Borough seats were contested. He advised that the new political make up of the Borough was as follows:-	
	Lib Dem 19 Conservatives 6 Labour 1	
	This had resulted in only six new councillors and the governance arrangements for the Council were unchanged.	
	On discussing the current scheme of allowances it was acknowledged that the Customer Services Task Group and the Waste Task Group were	

	no longer active but that a new committee had been established entitled the Change Management Committee. There had been no real political desire to revisit the scheme since the election and it was acknowledged that there were no financial constraints preventing the Panel from considering changes although any work would need to be done in parallel with the budget setting process. The Panel agreed that it would like to simplify the scheme by reducing the number of bands for the special responsibility allowances (SRAs) with a view to a possible increase in the basic allowance by re-balancing the existing allowances budget. It was considered that the benchmarking data with comparable authorities suggested that the current basic allowance was lower than those paid elsewhere. However, it was noted that the benchmarking data was now out of date and in order to undertake a further comparable exercise, then this data would need to be updated. When asked whether the Council had any shared services, it was noted that ICT and Economic Development were examples of where officers were shared with neighbouring authorities and the only issue on the cards was a potential move to a combined authority which would not affect members or their roles.	
	<u>RESOLVED</u> :- That the Panel be provided with updated comparable data in time for its next meeting to enable an informed discussion with the potential to recommend an amended scheme for 2016/17.	MP
15/04	CURRENT ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION	
	LEADER'S ALLOWANCE	
	The Panel was advised that there had been a number of recent staffing	
	issues on which, due to some sensitivities and complexities, senior officers had not been in a position to deal. As a result, the Leader of the Council had undertaken a significant increase in his workload, which were detailed in a recorded time sheet, and the Panel felt that this should be recognised as part of a time restricted allowance.	
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	ALLOWANCES FOR OPPOSITION GROUPS WITH ONLY ONE MEMBER An issue was raised regarding the possible allowance for an opposition group with only one member. However, it was noted that the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 state that a political group shall only be treated as constituted when there are two or more members of the authority who wish to be treated as a political group. Therefore, you cannot have a political group comprising just one member.			
15/05	FUTURE WORK PLAN The Panel recognised the valuable contribution made to the meeting by having the Chief Executive in attendance and sought his attendance at future meetings, where possible. On discussing comparable data in order to review the existing Scheme of Allowances, a request was made to Melanie Phillips that she provides the Panel with a copy of North West Leicestershire District's (NWLDC) Scheme of Allowances in order to make comparisons although it was acknowledged that NWLDC followed a Leader and Cabinet model.	мн		
15/06	ANY OTHER BUSINESS There was no other business.			
15/07	DATE OF NEXT MEETING <u>RESOLVED</u> :- That the next meeting be held at 2.00pm on Tuesday 3 November 2015.	ALL		

The meeting commenced at 10.00am and concluded at 11.35am

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APPENDIX 1

Data as at 13/10/15

Authority	Population	Number of Councillors	Basic Allowance
Christchurch Borough Council	47,752	24	£4072
Purbeck District Council	44,973	25	£4616
Oadby & Wigston Borough Council	56,170	26	£3960
Melton Borough Council	50,376	28	£4617
Craven District Council**	55,409	30	£4200
Averages	50,983	27	£4293

**Forest Heath District Council (used in the previous report) has now moved to an Executive system with a Cabinet. This has been replaced with Craven District Council