

Minutes of the meeting of the **EAST KENT JOINT INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL** held at the Council Offices, Whitfield on Wednesday, 11 January 2017 at 10.00 am

Present:

Chairman: Councillor Mr K London

Councillors: Mr W Ferrier
Mr A Goodall
Mrs S Longden
Mrs K Sabin-Dawson

Officers: Team Leader – Democratic Support

1 ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN

The Team Leader – Democratic Support called for nominations for Chairman for the Panel for the forthcoming year 2017.

It was proposed by Mr A R Goodall and duly seconded that Mr K London be elected Chairman.

In the absence of any other nominations it was:

RESOLVED: That Mr K London be appointed Chairman for the forthcoming year 2017.

2 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

3 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 29 February 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4 THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2017/18

The Team Leader – Democratic Support presented the report to the Panel for its consideration.

The consensus view of members of the Panel was that the Members' Allowance Scheme was within the limits of the Panel's previous recommendations.

It was noted that the National Living Wage, which was used as the basis of the Dependent Carers Allowance was due to increase in April 2017 from the current £7.20 per hour to £7.50 per hour. It was the consensus view of the Panel that as the Dependent Carers Allowance was index linked to the National Living Wage, the level in the Scheme for 2017/18 should be increased to reflect the April 2017 level.

RESOLVED: That it be recommended to Thanet District Council that the Members' Allowances Scheme 2017/18 be approved subject to a change in the Dependent Carers Allowance to reflect the April 2017 National Living Wage of £7.50 per hour.

5 DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2017/18

The Team Leader – Democratic Support presented the report to the Panel for its consideration. The Panel was advised that it was proposed that no changes be made to the Members' Allowance Scheme for 2017/18.

It was noted that the 2016/17 Scheme had remained frozen from 2015/16 and was still below the original target levels of allowances set by the Panel at its last Quadrennial Review.

It was the consensus view of the Panel that the Dependent's Carers Allowance, which was a cost recovery payment, was at a level that would not adequately reimburse claimants and that it should be set at the National Living Wage level of £7.50 per hour (from April 2017) in line with Thanet District Council.

RESOLVED: That it be recommended to Dover District Council:

- (a) That while the Panel would support an increase in the Members' Allowances Scheme of up to, but not exceeding, its recommendations in the last Quadrennial Review it recognises that in light of budgetary pressures on local authorities the Council may not choose to implement this.
- (b) That the Dependent Carers Allowance be increased to £7.50 per hour in line with the National Living Wage (from April 2017).

The meeting ended at 10.08 am.