

Minutes of the meeting of the **EAST KENT JOINT INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL** Committee held at Thanet District Council on Thursday 24 June 2010 at 10.00 am.

Present:

Chairman: Mr K London

Independent Members: Mr M Barry
Mrs A Longden
Mrs K Sabin-Dawson

Officers: Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager (Thanet District Council)
Democratic Support Officer (Dover District Council)

An apology for absence was received from Mr F McGurran.

* MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings held on 2 September 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

* ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Mrs A Longden, duly seconded and

RESOLVED: That Mr K London be appointed Chairman for the municipal year 2010/11.

* THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBERS ALLOWANCE SCHEME

The Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager presented the draft Members' Allowances Scheme 2010/11 to the Panel for its consideration. The scheme was unchanged from the previous year but as Thanet District Council had rejected the recommendations of the Panel's Quadrennial Review in 2009.

The Panel discussed the underlying reasons for its recommended allowance and came to the consensus view that while the current economic situation might affect the scheme of allowances adopted by an authority it did not affect the recommendations of the Panel. The levels of allowances were based on calculating an appropriate remuneration for the duties undertaken by District Councillors as part

of their ward work and any positions they were appointed too. The Panel had sought to seek a convergence in the level of allowances paid at all four East Kent authorities for the same duties and it was felt that changing the Thanet District Council scheme in isolation would undermine this aspiration.

The Panel revisited the issue of Deputy Cabinet Members/Lead Members in the light of the other quadrennial reviews conducted and the consensus view remained that without further evidence there was no need to change to its original recommendation.

Councillor M Harrison met with the Panel to discuss the role and remuneration of the position of Scrutiny Committee Chairman in light of changes to the role since the Panel interviewed Councillor R Bayford in 2008.

RESOLVED: That it be recommended to Thanet District Council that the following levels of remuneration be adopted as part of its Members' Allowance Scheme:

- (a) That the Basic Allowance be paid at £4,656.00 per annum for the municipal year 2010/11.
- (b) That a Special Responsibility Allowance for the Chairman of the Council be paid at £2,188.00 per annum for the municipal year 2010/11.
- (c) That a Special Responsibility Allowance for the Vice-Chairman of the Council be paid at £1,530.00 per annum for the municipal year 2010/11.
- (d) That the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Leader of the Council be paid at £19,325.00 per annum for the municipal year 2010/11.
- (e) That the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Deputy Leader of the Council be paid at £11,516.00 per annum for the municipal year 2010/11.

- (f) That the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Cabinet be paid at £8,538.00 per annum for the municipal year 2010/11.
- (g) That no Special Responsibility Allowance be paid to Deputy Cabinet / Lead Members.
- (h) That the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Leader of the Main Opposition Group with a membership of 10 or more members be paid at £5,563.00 per annum for the municipal year 2010/11.
- (i) That the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Leader of an Opposition Group with a membership of 5 to 9 members be paid at £300.00 per annum for the municipal year 2010/11.
- (j) That no Special Responsibility Allowance be paid to the Leader of an Opposition Group with a membership of fewer than 5 members.
- (k) That the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Deputy Leader of the Shadow Cabinet be paid at £2,465.00 per annum for the municipal year 2010/11.
- (l) That the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Shadow Cabinet be paid at £2,465.00 per annum for the municipal year 2010/11.
- (m) That the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee be paid at £8,190.00 per annum for the municipal year 2010/11.
- (n) That the Planning Committee and the Governance & Audit Committee be considered Major Committee's for the purpose of Chairman and Vice-Chairman remuneration.
- (o) That with the exception of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and those committees designated as Major

Committee's in recommendation (n), all other committees be considered to be Minor Committee's for the purpose of Chairman and Vice-Chairman remuneration.

- (p) That the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Chairman of a Major Committee be paid at £5,563.00 per annum for the municipal year 2010/11.
- (q) That the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Chairman of a Minor Committee be paid at £1,301.00 per annum for the municipal year 2010/11.
- (r) That the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Vice-Chairman of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee be paid at £3,216.00 per annum for the municipal year 2010/11.
- (s) That the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Vice-Chairman of a Major Committee be paid at £1,301.00 per annum for the municipal year 2010/11.
- (t) That the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Vice-Chairman of a Minor Committee be paid at £300.00 per annum for the municipal year 2010/11.
- (u) That the Special Responsibility Allowance for an Independent Member of the Standards Committee be weighted as that of a Vice-Chairman of a Standards Committee and therefore be paid at £300.00 per annum for the municipal year 2009/10.
- (v) That the Special Responsibility Allowance for a member of the Licensing Committee (with the exception of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman) be withdrawn with immediate effect.
- (w) That the Dependant Carers Allowance for the municipal year 2010/11 be £6.00 per hour, or the hourly national minimum wage whichever is the higher, and thereafter index linked to

the Retail Price Index increase for a period up to and including the municipal year 2012/13.

- (x) That the limit on the number of hours that the Dependant Carers Allowance be may be claimed of one hundred hours per quarter be removed as it is in the view of the Panel discriminatory to those Members affected who are legitimately undertaking the business of the authority.
- (y) That the current travel and subsistence allowance scheme be continued with index linking in line with changes in Officer's allowances where appropriate.
- (z) That the 3-month time limit set for submitting travel and subsistence claims be endorsed subject to the appropriate officer having discretion to waive this rule in exceptional conditions.
- (aa) That the Local Government Pension Scheme should continue to be made available to Members to join should they so wish to do so.
- (bb) That all Special Responsibility Allowances be index linked to the annual officer pay increase for a period up to and including the municipal year 2012/13.

The meeting ended at 11.30 am.