

BRECKLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of Vicky Thomson, Assistant Director of Democratic Services

To: Full Council – 28 February 2013

(Author: Rory Ringer, Democratic Services Team Leader**)]**

Subject: Report of Independent Remuneration Panel on Scheme of Members Allowances

Purpose: The Independent Remuneration Panel recommends the following to Council for the Scheme of Members Allowances 1st April 2013 – 31st March 2014.

Recommendation(s):

- **Basic allowance and Special Responsibility allowances remain unchanged (with exception of Chairman of Planning)**
- **Chairman of Planning Special Responsibility Allowance is increased to £11,050 (an increase of £236 per annum)**
- **Childcare Allowance is increased to £7.50 per hour**

1. BACKGROUND

Breckland Council has appointed an Independent Remuneration Panel to consider and recommend a scheme of allowances that complies with the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Local Government Act 2000 and associated Regulations.

The Panel met on two occasions and also interviewed the Leader of the Council and the Deputy Leader.

2. OPTIONS

To approve the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, or to note the recommendations and not to approve the changes.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Given the financial uncertainties and the changes Breckland Council is likely to face in subsequent years, the Panel was mindful to only recommend the scheme for the period of 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014. Likewise, it was agreed that the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances (with the exception of Chairman of Planning) would remain unchanged.

The Panel felt that the role of the Chairman of Planning had increased in terms of workload and responsibility, and there was immense pressure on the Chairman regarding the wellbeing of the district. Therefore the Panel recommended that the Special Responsibility Allowance should be reflective of that of an Executive Member, and be increased to £11,050 (an increase of £236 per annum).

The Panel recommended increasing the allowance for childcare to £7.50 per hour (subject to a maximum £75.00 per authorised duty) as it wanted to ensure any Councillor would not be unable to carry out their duties due to low childcare allowance.

4. EXPECTED BENEFITS

N/A

5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1 **Legal** – The duty to comply with the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Local Government Act 2000 and associated regulations.

5.2 **Risks** This report does not require a risk assessment because the issues covered by the recommendations are not significant in terms of risk.

5.3 **Financial** An increase of £236 per annum to the Chairman of Planning Special Responsibility Allowance.

Whilst there is an increase in Childcare allowances it is not possible to determine what cost this will bring to the Council. Based on 2012/2013, childcare allowance paid was £60.

5.4 **Timescales** To implement the new Scheme of Allowances with effect from 1st April 2013 – 31st March 2014.

5.5 **Equality and Diversity** – N/A

5.6 **Stakeholders / Consultation** – N/A

5.7 **Contracts** – N/A

5.8 **Section 17, Crime & Disorder Act 1998** – N/A

5.9 **Other** - None

6. WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED

Background papers:- None

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Key Decision – No

Appendices attached to this report: Final report of the Remuneration Panel.