

Committee: Special Finance and Administration**Agenda Item****Date:** 15th January 2008**3****Title:** Elected Member Remuneration 2008/09**Author:** Adrian Webb, Acting Chief Financial Officer.
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Decision**Summary**

1. The remuneration for elected Members is reviewed annually by the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP).
2. The panel review current remuneration levels and also review the need to revise or introduce new criteria to the reward bands.

Recommendations

3. That Members consider whether – in the light of the council's financial position – they wish to make any recommendation to the Independent Remuneration Panel on the level of member allowances for 2008-9.

Background Papers

None

Impact

Communication/ Consultation	Chairmen have been consulted on this proposal.
Community Safety	There are no specific community safety implications contained in this report.
Equalities	There are no specific community safety implications contained in this report
Finance	The provisional budget for 2008-9 assumes that member allowances will increase by 2.5%. If this increase were foregone completely the saving against forecast would be £7,090
Human Rights	There are no specific human rights implications contained in this report
Legal implications	Any legal implications of the actions proposed in this report will be considered
Sustainability	There are no specific sustainability implications contained in this report
Ward-specific impacts	There are no specific ward implications contained in this report
Workforce/Workplace	All staff are being kept informed about the Council's budget position.

Situation

4. The 2007/08 panel consisted of three independent people:
- Ruth Whitlam (Chairman) – local resident and Director of Corporate Affairs, The Appointments Commission
- Steven Bennett – Secretary and Clerk to Anglia Ruskin University
- Martyn Fiddler – local resident and consultant on aviation customs duties and VAT.
5. In 2007/08 the panel considered several proposals, some of which were accepted and others refused. At Full Council on 12 December 2006 the recommendations of the panel were accepted and the following remuneration levels agreed.

▪ Basic allowance	▪ £4,900 (notionally 65 days at £75.40 per day)
▪ Chairman of the Council	▪ £4,900 + £3,675 + civic expenses (Basic allowance + $\frac{3}{4}$ basic allowance)
▪ Vice Chairman of the Council	▪ £4,900 + £2,450 (Basic allowance + $\frac{1}{2}$ basic allowance)
▪ Leader of the Council	▪ £4,900 + £7,350 (Basic allowance + $1\frac{1}{2}$ basic allowance)
▪ Deputy Leader of the Council	▪ £4,900 + £3,675 (Basic allowance + $\frac{3}{4}$ basic allowance)
▪ Committee Chairmen & Chairmen of Area Panels	▪ £4,900 + £3,675 (Basic allowance + $\frac{3}{4}$ basic allowance)
▪ Chairman of Standards Committee	▪ £3,675 ($\frac{3}{4}$ basic allowance)
▪ Group Leaders	▪ One basic allowance + either £1,030 p.a. or £111 x group membership as at 1 st April (subject to a minimum group size of 2) which ever is the greater.
▪ Members of the Development Control Committee	▪ £4,900 + £490 (Basic allowance + $6\frac{1}{2}$ days at £75.40 per day)
▪ Carer's allowance	▪ £10 per hour

6. The recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel are considered each year in advance of the budget-setting meeting to enable the financial implications of proposed changes to be taken into account. The relevant meetings of the IRP have not yet been scheduled but arrangements are in hand. There is an opportunity therefore for members to give advice to the Panel on any particular issues or considerations that they wish the panel to take into account in making its recommendations.
- In particular, in discussion with the Chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee, it has been suggested that the overall financial position of the council means that members might consider freezing the current levels of allowances.