

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting19th June 2008

1. Title of Item/Report

Members' Allowances

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report that provided details of the Independent Members' Allowances Remuneration Panel's ("the Remuneration Panel") report following the previous decision in February 2008 to ask the Remuneration Panel to undertake a further review and report back.

It was explained that the Remuneration Panel undertook a review of Members' allowances in September 2007 and produced a report in October 2007. The report was submitted to Cabinet on 14 February 2008.

What became clear as a result of the Panel's work and Members' consideration of the Panel's report was that there were widely differing views on the most appropriate way forward. The Remuneration Panel had also not had the benefit of the report from the Councillors Commission.

Members were advised that, in light of all of this, it was agreed that the Remuneration Panel should be asked to review their findings, taking into account the views and suggestions outlined as part of the previous review (and referred to in the report to Cabinet on 14 February 2008); the outcome of further discussions with Group Leaders; any additional views from Members and consideration of the Councillors' Commission report previously referred to.

Members were informed that for 2007/08 the Council agreed an inflationary backdated increase for basic, SRAs and co-optees allowances and an inflation increased backdated SRA for the Leaders of the Labour Group and Thornaby Independent Association; and a continuation of the 2007/08 Allowances Scheme, as amended, for 2008/09.

It was explained that the Remuneration Panel had concluded its further

review and the resulting report was presented to Cabinet for consideration. A document detailing suggested Cabinet recommendations to Council was circulated.

Cabinet discussed the report and document and agreed a recommendation to Council.

RECOMMENDED that:-

1. Firstly, Council consider the Remuneration Panel's recommendations as at addendum A, attached.

2. In the event that Council reject the Remuneration Panel's recommendations, consideration be given to one of the options as detailed in addendum B, attached.

3. Reasons for the Decision

The Members' Allowances Regulations require local authorities to revise existing Schemes and make new Schemes following a review by and consideration of recommendations by an Independent Remuneration Panel.

At the Council's request the Remuneration Panel has undertaken a further review of allowances and has recommended changes to the present 2008/09 Scheme and a Scheme for 2009/10.

The Council is required to consider this latest report and recommendation.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None.

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

All Cabinet Members present declared a personal non prejudicial interest in the item as they would all receive an allowance(s) under the scheme.

6. Details of any Dispensations

None.

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Not Applicable.

Proper Officer
24 June 2008