

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROFORMA**

Cabinet Meeting .....12th January 2012

1. Title of Item/Report

Members' Allowances

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet considered a report of the Independent Members' Allowances Remuneration Panel.

Members were asked to consider the Panel's report and, in particular, its recommendations. It was noted that Council would consider any recommendations from Cabinet, at its meeting on 18 January 2012.

Cabinet supported many of the principles outlined in the Panel's report and recommendations, however, alternative proposals were submitted which Members considered, would be appropriate to Stockton on Tees Borough Council.

The proposals were:

1. An overall budget reduction of 4% for 2012/13;

2. Basic Allowance (and Co-optee Allowance) frozen, reflecting employee position; for the period of this scheme, the Basic Allowance would be adjusted annually in accordance with National Joint Council for Local Government Employees. The period of the scheme would be 2012/13 to 2014/15 inclusively.

3. All Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) to be linked in % terms to the Leader's Allowance

i.	Deputy Leader	55%	(w.e.f. 1.6.11)
ii.	Cabinet Members	45%	
iii.	Chairs	25%	
iv.	Vice Chairs	12½%	
v.	Other Groups	45%	in total

Leader's Allowance to be linked as per the Basic Allowance with the consequent adjustment to SRAs.

4. Group Leaders Allowances to be apportioned on Council seats won at election, rather than votes, with a minimum of 3 seats comprising a Group (5% of total, rounded up).

5. All Chairs and Vice Chairs to receive the same respective SRAs

6. No Councillor to receive more than one SRA from the Council with the exception of Mayoral Allowances; where a Councillor occupied two qualifying positions, then only the higher allowance be paid. The element of this proposal relating to a Councillor receiving no more than one SRA from the Council would, however, be the subject of further consultation.

7. Child Care and Dependent Carers' Allowances – no change.

8. 4% reduction to Mayoral & Deputy Mayoral Allowances, in line with savings elsewhere;

9. No change to Travel, Subsistence and Pensions.

Members noted the financial implications of the proposals for 2012/13, which would see a saving of £34,300:

Basic	- £9,300
Leader	- £26,800
Deputy Leader	- £14,740
Cabinet Member	- £12,060
Committee Chair	- £6,700
Committee Vice Chair	- £3,350
Leader, Conservative	- £5,360
Leader IBIS	- £2,680
Leader TIA	- £2,233
Leader Lib Dem	- £1,787
Leader BIA	- £0

Mayor - £16,800  
Deputy Mayor - £5,280

Co opted - £650

RECOMMENDED to Council that

1. it approve the proposals, as detailed above.
2. further consultation takes place, as detailed at 6 above.

3. Reasons for the Decision

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

At the Council's request the Panel had undertaken a review of allowances and had made recommendations as regards the same.

The Council was required to consider the Panel's report and recommendations.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Independent Remuneration Panel's Report

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillors Beall, Coleman, Cook, Dixon, Harrington, Mrs McCoy, Nelson, Rose and Smith declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in the item entitled Members' Allowances as they were each entitled to receive some of the allowances under discussion.

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

Proper Officer  
17 January 2012