

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting31st October 2013

1. Title of Item/Report

Members' Special Responsibility Allowances ("SRA")

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report on Members' Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA).

The purpose of the report was to give further consideration to Cabinet / Council's previous decision that no councillor should receive more than one SRA from the Council, with the exception of Mayoral Allowances; that where a councillor occupied two qualifying positions then only the higher allowance would be paid; but that this proposal relating to a councillor receiving no more than one SRA from the Council would however be the subject of further consultation.

A briefing paper regarding the proposal relating to a councillor receiving no more than one SRA from the Council was attached to the report.

The paper set out the background to the proposal and the views previously expressed by the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel, Cabinet and Council.

On the 26 April the briefing paper was circulated to all Members, who were asked to indicate their preference regarding one of the following options:-

Option 1

No change to the current position which allows Members to receive more than one SRA from the Council.

or

Option 2

A Member could only receive one SRA from the Council, EXCLUDING mayoral allowances, and where a member qualified for more than one SRA, then only the higher/highest allowance would be payable.

Option 3

A Member could only receive one SRA from the Council, INCLUDING mayoral allowances, and where a member qualified for more than one allowance, then only the higher/highest allowance (mayoral or SRA) would be payable.

Of the Members who voted, the following voted for each option:-

Option 1 - 2

Option 2 – 12

Option 3 - 13

This information was presented to the Members Advisory Panel on the 25th September 2013. The Panel discussed the options and agreed that a member should only receive one SRA from the Council and that where a Member qualified for more than one SRA then only the higher/highest allowance should be payable. The Panel did, not, however determine which of Options 2 or 3 was preferred.

RECOMMENDED to Council that:-

1. No Councillor receives more than one SRA from the Council, with the exception of Mayoral Allowances, and that where a Councillor occupies two or more qualifying positions, then only the higher/highest allowance is paid; and that
2. This revision to the Members' Allowances Scheme takes effect from 2014/15.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To conclude the consultation which Council agreed should be undertaken regarding the proposal that a Member should receive no more than one SRA from the Council.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

All Members present declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of the agenda item 11 - Members Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) given their personal interest in any allowance given to Councillors.

6. Details of any Dispensations

None

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

N/A

Proper Officer
04 May 2013