

(Forest Heath District Council)

West Suffolk Joint Independent Remuneration Panel

Recommendations of the Panel that:

- (1) The Basic Allowance should be increased by £282.04, and should also incorporate the £240 broadband payment as stipulated by the statutory regulations resulting in a Basic Allowance of £5,368.00pa,
- (2) Reference to the Broadband allowance to be removed from the scheme.
- (3) As part of the established Member Development Programme, Members continue to develop their own personal development plans with their Group Leaders and officers, which will be resourced from within the existing budget for Member Development and monitored by officers.
- (4) The scheme should remain index linked to officers' NJC pay awards;
- (5) Only one SRA shall be paid to any one Member. Where two SRAs are applicable the higher rate will be applied.
- (6) The SRA for the Leader of the Council should be calculated by way of a multiplier of x2 the basic allowance, resulting in an SRA of £10,736.00;
- (7) The SRA for the Deputy Leader of the Council should be calculated by way of a multiplier of x1.20 the basic allowance, resulting in an SRA of £6,441.60;
- (8) The SRA for Cabinet Members with Portfolio should be calculated by way of a multiplier of x1.10 the basic allowance, resulting in an SRA of £5,904.80;
- (9) The SRA for Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny should be calculated by way of a multiplier of x0.80 the basic allowance, resulting in an SRA of £4,294.40;
- (10) The SRA for Vice-Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny should be calculated by way of a multiplier of x0.40 the basic allowance, resulting in an SRA of £2,147.20;
- (11) The SRA for the Chairman of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny should be calculated by way of a multiplier of x0.80 the basic allowance, resulting in an SRA of £4,294.40;
- (12) The SRA for the Vice-Chairman of the Performance and Scrutiny Committee should be calculated by way of a multiplier of x0.40 the basic allowance, resulting in an SRA of £2,147.20;

- (13) The SRA for the Chairman of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee should be calculated by way of a multiplier of x0.20 the basic allowance, resulting in an SRA of £1,073.60;
- (14) The SRA for the Vice-Chairman of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee should be calculated by way of a multiplier of x0.10 the basic allowance, resulting in an SRA of £536.80;
- (15) The SRA for the Chairman of Development Control should be calculated by way of a multiplier of x1 the basic allowance, resulting in an SRA of £5,368.00;
- (16) The SRA for the Vice-Chairman of Development Control should be calculated by way of a multiplier of x0.50 the basic allowance, resulting in an SRA of £2,684.00;
- (17) The SRA for the Chairman of Standards should be calculated by way of a multiplier x0.20 the basic allowance, resulting in an SRA of £1,073.60;
- (18) The SRA for Vice-Chairman of Standards should be calculated by way of a multiplier x0.10 the basic allowance, resulting in an SRA of £536.80;
- (19) The SRA for the Chairman of the Council should be calculated by way of a multiplier x0.50 the basic allowance, resulting in an SRA of £2,684.00;
- (20) The SRA for the Vice-Chairman of Council should be calculated by way of a multiplier x0.25 the basic allowance, resulting in an SRA of £1,342.00;
- (21) The SRA for the Leader of a political group (6 or more Members) should be calculated by way of a multiplier x0.19 the basic allowance, resulting in an SRA of £1,019.92;
- (22) The SRA for the Leader of a political group of between (2 to 5 Members) should be calculated by way of a multiplier x0.09 the basic allowance, resulting in an SRA of £483.12;
- (23) The SRA for Co-opted Members of Committees to be determined by each Committee as the need arises to a maximum of x0.015 the basic allowance per meeting attended.
- (24) An additional paragraph to be included in Schedule 5 as follows:
 - All co-opted members shall be paid and able to claim expenses for travel, subsistence, carers allowance.
- (25) The Carers Allowance should be set at £10 per hour wage for general care and £20 per hour wage for specialist nursing care. (These payments would not include a family member or neighbour looking after a dependent
- (26) The payment of a Carers' Allowance should only be paid on production of receipts.

- (27) The Carers' Allowance be monitored against market led increases.
- (28) The Travelling Expenses scheme should be simplified and amended to:
- All cars: 45.0 pence a mile;
 - Carriage of passenger (councillor) in car for the same purpose: 5.0 pence a mile;
 - Motor cycles/bicycles: 28.0 pence a mile;
 - Train or Bus: actual standard fare incurred with receipt;
 - Car parking fees: actual expenditure incurred.
 - Taxi: actual expenditure incurred on Receipt. (*Taxi to be used in Exceptional circumstances*);
- (29) The Subsistence Expenses scheme should be adjusted with the allowance for breakfast, lunch and tea removed, and replaced with:
- In exceptional circumstances, subject to the agreement of the Assistant Director (HR, Legal and Democratic Services), lunch to be paid to a maximum of £10 on the production of a receipt.
- (30) The allowance for evening meal should be increased to a maximum of £20 on production of a receipt.
- (31) An additional "overnight subsistence (deemed to cover a 24 hour period)" allowance be included as follows:
- Outside London: £80.00
 - For such an absence in London, or for attending on of the conferences approved by the Secretary of State: £100.00
 - The overnight subsistence allowance may be exceeded on the authorisation of the Assistant Director (HR, Legal and Democratic Services), for example in order for a Member to stay in a hotel associated with a particular conference.
 - Accommodation be booked by officers in order to maximise any discounts that could be achieved, except in exceptional circumstances
- (32) That all Members will receive the same basic allowance.
- (33) Reference to "renunciation" to be removed from the Allowance Scheme;
- (34) Reference to the Local Government Pension Scheme be removed from the Members' Scheme of Allowances.

- (35) The proposed scheme be implemented from 1 April 2017, and would not be back dated.
- (36) A further review of Members' allowances should be undertaken in 2018.