

**Executive**

20 May 2008

**Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services**

**Independent Remuneration Panel Report – Special Responsibility Allowances**

**Summary**

1. At its meeting in 24 January 2008, full Council considered the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on the statutory review of Members Allowances. Council made a number of decisions regarding the basic allowance and pensions and agreed to review special responsibility allowances prior to the Annual Meeting in May 2008.

**Background**

2. Places to the Executive, Scrutiny & other Committees are determined at the Annual Council Meeting, together with individual Member roles, eg chairs of committees, Executive Member status etc.
3. As a result of the decisions made at the Annual Council Meeting, Members are paid special responsibility allowances (SRA) commensurate with the role to which they are appointed.

**Consultation**

4. In accordance with the decision made at Council on 24 January 2008, Group Leaders have been consulted upon their position in relation to reviewing SRAs at this point in time. As a result, Group Leaders are recommending that no change be instigated to the existing SRAs for the time being. It is suggested that they be reviewed when the final outcome of the anticipated report following this year's CPA inspection is known. Group Leaders are proposing this on the basis that the CPA report might lead to a review affecting scrutiny/decision making structures, which in turn could create different Member roles.

## **Options**

5. Options open to the Executive are either
  - (i) to recommend full Council not to make any changes to existing SRAs and bring forward a review post the CPA report being received; or
  - (ii) to recommend full Council to instigate a review of SRAs at some other time.

## **Corporate Priorities**

6. Reviewing special responsibility allowances for Members and considering the recommendations of an Independent Panel is a periodic statutory requirement. Properly reflecting the duties and roles of Members in their remuneration could be said to contribute to the Council's Corporate Values relating to strong leadership and supporting and developing people.

## **Implications**

7. There are no known implications in relation to the following in terms of dealing with the specific matter before Members, namely to consider the minutes and determine their response to the advice offered by the Board:
  - **Financial**
  - **Human Resources (HR)**
  - **Equalities**
  - **Crime and Disorder**
  - **Property**
  - **Other**

## **Legal Implications**

8. As referred to in paragraph 7 above, the Council is statutory obliged to commission an Independent Panel to review the allowances it pays to its Members on a periodic basis. Historically, the Council has opted to effect this review every 4 years to coincide with the local election cycle in York.

## **Risk Management**

9. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy, there are no known risks associated with the recommendations of this report.

## Recommendations

10. Members are asked to consider the recommendations of Group Leaders and decide whether they wish to recommend to full Council that no change to special responsibility allowances for Members take place until such time as they can be properly reviewed when the final outcome of the CPA inspection is known.

## Reason:

To fulfil the requirements of the decision made by Full Council in January.

## Contact details:

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### Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

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Report Approved  Date 09.05.08

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

## Annexes

None

## Background Papers

Full Council minute – 24 January 2008