

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL ON MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

At its Meeting on 2nd March 2004, the Council considered a report of the Independent Remuneration Panel which set out recommendations arising from the Panel's review of Members' Allowances for 2004/05 (the report is attached as Appendix "1" hereto). The Council decided to ask the Panel to give further consideration to its recommendations, particularly in relation to the recommendation regarding the replacement of the Special Responsibility Allowance payable to the Leader of the Opposition with a Special Responsibility Allowance payable to the Leader/Co-ordinator of each opposition group.

A further meeting of the Panel was therefore held on 8th April 2004 at which we interviewed the Leader of the Council and the Leader/Co-ordinator of each of the opposition groups in order to receive their views on the matter. We then reviewed our previous recommendation in the light of these representations. In particular, we noted that Elected Members generally recognise the Leader of the largest opposition group as the 'Leader of the Opposition'.

Following further discussions we concluded that we should unanimously

RECOMMEND

- (1) That a Special Responsibility Allowance be payable to the Leader of the largest opposition group at a flat rate of £2,070;
- (2) That a Special Responsibility Allowance be payable to the Leader/Co-ordinator of other opposition groups, subject to the group comprising a minimum of 4 Members or 10% of the total Council Membership whichever is the greater, and that the amount payable be £500 in respect of the above criteria plus £80 in respect of each additional Member of the group (for example the Leader of a group comprising 4 members would be entitled to receive £500 and the Leader of a group comprising 6 members would be entitled to receive £660); and that where appropriate, the amount payable should vary to reflect any changes in the size of the group which may occur during the course of the year;
- (3) That recommendations (1), (3) and (4) in the Panel's original report, as set out in Appendix "1", be approved;
- (4) That any changes arising from the review of allowances for 2004/05 be backdated to 1st April 2004.

Independent Remuneration Panel
5th May 2004

Mr. J. Browne

Ms. A. Morris

Mr. J. Topping

Mr. A. Finn

Mr. P. Sandhu