

REPORT OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE

(Meeting held on 26 January 2007)

1. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES (REPORT B) (MINUTE 33)

Members will recall that in 2005, the Council agreed that members' allowances should be uprated annually using the Retail Price Index (all items) percentage rate of inflation for the year to December. The Members' Allowances Scheme provides for the uprating to apply to the basic, special responsibility and dependent carer's allowances from 1 April in each following year.

The increase in the Retail Price Index (all items) for the year to December 2006 was 3.2%. An uprating of 3.2% from 1 April 2007 should therefore be automatically applied to the basic, special responsibility and dependant carers' allowances, but the Council is required formally to make a scheme of members' allowances each year and therefore must resolve on the issue.

The Council have previously agreed that the automatic uprating system should continue for a maximum of four years, or until the Remuneration Panel is re-convened to review the scheme. A review must therefore take place prior to the Municipal Year 2010/11.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Basic, Special Responsibility and Dependent Carers' allowances embodied within the current Members' Allowances Scheme be uprated by 3.2% with effect from 1 April 2007.

**Cllr J A G Hutchins
Vice-Chairman**