

REPORT OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE

(Meeting held on 28 January 2011)

1. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES 2011/12 (REPORT B) (MINUTE 26)

The Council is required each year formally to make a scheme of members' allowances to apply from 1 April in that year. The Members' Allowances Scheme currently in force (agreed by the Council 29 January 2010) provides for the annual adjustment of basic, special responsibility, co-optees' and dependant carers' allowances, by the Local Government staff employees' national pay award annual percentage increase backdated to 1 April in each year.

Prior to April 2010, the adjustment index in the allowances scheme was tied to the annual increase in RPI. In February 2009 when the RPI figure for the 2008 calendar year was 4%, the Council decided not to adjust the allowances for 2009/10. There was no increase in employees' pay in 2010/11 and therefore no overall increase in members' allowances in 2010/11 (although, following a review by the Independent Remuneration Panel, there were adjustments to a limited number of Special Responsibility Allowances).

The basic, special responsibility and dependant carers' allowances have therefore remained largely unchanged since April 2008.

The Committee were advised that the 2011/12 employee pay claim was still under negotiation, but it was considered unlikely that there would be a general pay award for 2011/12. It was also not likely that the outcome of the pay claim would be known by 1 April 2011, when the new scheme of Members' Allowances should apply.

In the circumstances the Committee recommends that all allowances included in the members' allowances scheme remain unchanged for the year commencing 1 April 2011. If there is a pay award to employees, an amendment to the scheme would be possible. Any pay award would be reported to the Committee which would, after further consideration, report further to the Council.

The budget for members' allowances is £500,650. There is no need for any adjustment to this amount in 2011/12.

RECOMMENDED:

That that there be no adjustment to Members' annual, basic, special responsibility, co-optees' and dependant carers' allowances for the year commencing 1 April 2011, and that the Members' Allowances Scheme adopted by the Council on 29 January 2010 remain in force.

**Cllr J A G Hutchins
VICE CHAIRMAN**