

**INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL –  
NOTE OF MEETING HELD ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2019, TOWN HALL, ST ANNES**

Present: Mr David Cam, Chairman

Mrs Helen Hockenhull

Mrs Karen Eaton

Tracy Manning, Director of Resources

Ian Curtis, Head of Governance

Katharine McDonnell, Democratic Services Officer (note taker)

Tracy Manning welcomed everyone to the meeting.

She advised Panel members that since the Panel had last met, there had been an all-out borough election, and the Council had been notified by the Boundary Commission, the council would be subject to a review of the electoral boundaries. The review process would commence in 2020 and any recommended changes in place for the next all-out borough election in 2023.

She further advised that the allowances for the Independent Persons had been considered at a joint meeting of Blackpool and Fylde's Independent Remuneration Panels, and had been agreed to increase the allowance to £800 per annum, with the cost of the allowance shared equally between Blackpool and Fylde. The allowance would need to be back dated to Annual Council on 22 May 2019.

Ian Curtis presented the 2020/2021 Member Allowance Scheme report, a copy of which had previously been circulated to members of the Panel. The report covered the current level of members' allowances and the special responsibility allowances; dependent carers' allowance; and a comparison of allowances paid in 2006 and 2019. The report also provided information regarding the level of allowances adjusted to 2001 prices (the retail price index); information regarding the different allowances, the annual budgeted amount for members' allowances and the Council's financial position. Finally it provided a detailed spreadsheet comparing the allowances paid by other Lancashire authorities and authorities who operated a committee system.

The Panel thanked Ian for his report and discussed the questions posed in the report. In the course of their discussion, the panel noted that the council was in a robust financial position and had made a series of well balanced judgements over the years. The result of which were healthy reserves and the delivery of capital schemes which benefitted the borough.

In the course of their discussion the Panel also considered councillors' workload and discussed the roles that attracted Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) and the time commitment for those roles. The Panel also noted it was some time since an increase had been recommended, and the steer from Government appeared to indicate a move to more funding for public services.

**Taking all matters into consideration the Panel recommended that there be an increase in the basic allowance for all councillors to £4000, and the percentage increase to be applied**

across all SRAs and group leader payments. The allowances recommended therefore would be as follows;

Basic allowance - £3,750 to £4,000  
Leader of the Council £10,000 to £10,625  
Deputy Leader - £3,000 to £3,190  
Chairmen of Programme Committees £4,000 to £4,250  
Vice-Chairman of above - £2,000 to £2,125  
Chairman of Audit and Standards - £3,250 to £3,450  
Vice- Chairman of Audit and Standards - £1,625 to £1,725  
Chairman of Member Development - £2,000 to £2,125  
Chairman of Public Protection and Licensing - £1,625 to £1,725  
Vice-Chairman of above - £865  
Leader of each political group - £32 a member to £34 a member

To increase the allowance for the Independent Persons to £800 per person per annum, with the cost shared equally with Blackpool, and back dated to Annual Council held on 22 May 2019.

Mr Cam thanked the other Panel members for their attendance and consideration of the matters at hand, and thanked the officers for their work and advice.

-----