

**INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL –
NOTE OF MEETING HELD ON 21 NOVEMBER 2016, TOWN HALL, ST ANNES**

Present: Mr David Cam, Chairman

Mrs Helen Hockenhull

Mrs Karen Eaton (Observer)

Tracy Morrison, Director of Resources

Ian Curtis, Head of Governance

Katharine McDonnell, Democratic Services Officer (note taker)

Karen Eaton was welcomed to the meeting. Tracy Morrison explained that Mrs Eaton had been interviewed with a view to appointment as a member of the Independent Remuneration Panel however the appointment could not take formal effect until ratified by the Council, therefore Mrs Eaton was had been invited to the meeting as an observer.

Ian Curtis presented the 2017/2018 Member Allowance Scheme report, of which a copy 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; a comparison of allowances paid in 2006 and 2015; and comparison statistics for neighbouring local authorities.

Mr Curtis provided information regarding the different allowances, and drew the Panel's attention to the Council's financial position. He further explained that it was permissible under the legislation to recommend that the allowance scheme be index linked, and increased annually on that basis. He concluded with a detailed spreadsheet comparing the allowances paid by other Lancashire authorities and authorities who operated a committee system.

The Panel were asked to consider whether special responsibility allowances should be paid to the members of the Development Management Committee in recognition of the particular frequency and length of the meetings of that particular committee.

The Panel discussed the matter in depth, and were keen to explore the extent to which the length and frequency of meetings reflected the necessary workload, as opposed to the working preferences of members. Matters discussed included adoption of the new Local Plan, public speaking, length of agendas and the scheme of delegation.

The Panel concluded that the payment of a Special Responsibility Allowance to members of the Development Management Committee could not be supported, because the committee did not meet the statutory criterion of meeting with exceptional frequency or for exceptionally long periods.

In regards to the rest of the Member Allowance Scheme, the Panel recommended that it remained unchanged.

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