

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL COUNCIL – TUESDAY, 15 MAY 2018

Title of report	RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL – LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE CHAIR ALLOWANCE
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Purpose of report	To receive the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel on whether a Special Responsibility Allowance should be payable to the Chair of the Local Plan Committee.
Council Priorities	Value for Money
Implications:	
Financial/Staff	If the recommendation is accepted, it will result in a cost of no more than £5,113.06
Risk Management	No direct implications.
Equalities Impact Screening	No direct implications.
Human Rights	No direct implications.
Transformational Government	No direct implications.
Comments of Head of Paid Service	The report is satisfactory.
Comments of Section 151 Officer	The report is satisfactory.
Comments of Monitoring Officer	The report is satisfactory
Consultees	Members of the Independent Remuneration Panel

Background papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 and the Council's Constitution [www.nwleics.gov.uk]
Recommendations	<p>IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT COUNCIL AGREES:</p> <p>(1) TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE ONGOING WORK OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL;</p> <p>(2) THAT AN ALLOWANCE BE PAID TO THE CHAIR OF THE LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE AT THE SAME RATE AS THE CHAIR'S ALLOWANCE FOR OTHER COMMITTEES;</p> <p>(3) THAT THE CHAIR OF THE LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE AND THE CHAIR OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE SHOULD NOT BE THE SAME PERSON;</p> <p>(4) THAT THE ALLOWANCE BE PAYABLE FROM THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE 2018/19 CIVIC YEAR.</p>

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Council is required by [The Local Authorities \(Members' Allowances\) \(England\) Regulations 2003](#) to establish an Independent Remuneration Panel to advise on the level of remuneration to members for fulfilling their role as Members.
- 1.2 The regulations provide for Independent Remuneration Panels to have a number of functions, one of which is to make recommendations to the authority about the responsibilities or duties which should lead to the payment of a special responsibility allowance and as to the amount of such an allowance.
- 1.3 On 6 April 2018, the Independent Remuneration Panel met to consider whether an allowance should be payable to the Chair of the Local Plan Committee. The minutes of that meeting are attached at Appendix A to this report.

2.0 THE ROLE OF THE LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE

- 2.1 The Panel had regard to the outcomes of the Peer Challenge review where it was considered that whilst the recently adopted Local Plan should provide certainty and a guide for development, it did not seem to be commonly understood or owned by members. At planning policy level this plan provides the direction for future decisions and gives certainty about what the council wants to achieve through its spatial planning framework for the districts and communities. With that in mind, it had been recommended that the Local Plan Advisory Committee be given a new identity with increased membership and powers and a report makes recommendations to that effect elsewhere on this agenda .
- 2.2 At the meeting of Council on 20 March 2018, it was agreed to reform the Local Plan Advisory Committee to give it appropriate decision making powers and to increase the number of seats from 7 to 11. This would take effect from 15 May which sees the start of the 2018/19 civic year

- 2.3 The Panel acknowledged that if the recommended changes to the LPAC were agreed by Council it would have an increased role and remit and, with that in mind, it recommended that an allowance should be paid to the Chair of the Local Plan Committee with effect from the beginning of the forthcoming 18/19 civic year and at the same rate as the allowance paid to the Chairs of the other Committees.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The current Special Responsibility Allowances [SRAs] payable are as follows with the Committee Chairs' allowances in bold:-

	Multiple	Amount payable 2018/19 (£)
Chairman of the Council	1	3,933.13
Deputy Chairman of the Council	1/8 (12.5%)	491.64
Leader of the Council	4	15,732.52
Deputy Leader of the Council	2.5	9,832.83
Portfolio Holder	1.5	5,899.69
Opposition Leader (*)	1	3,933.13
Chairman (Policy Development Group)	1.3	5,113.06
Chairman (Planning Committee)	1.3	5,113.06
Chairman (Licensing)	1.3	5,113.06
Chairman (Audit and Governance Committee)	1.3	5,113.06

- 3.2 Normally only one special responsibility allowance will be paid per councillor, being the highest of the allowances available to him/her. However, where the Council requires a member to undertake additional duties that attract a Special Responsibility Allowance the member will receive 100% of the higher allowance and 50% of the other allowance.
- 3.3 The Panel agreed that the allowance payable to the Chair of the Local Plan Committee should be at the same rate as the other Chair's allowances at a multiple of 1.3 of the basic rate. This was on the understanding that the Chair of the Planning Committee and the Chair of the Local Plan Committee are not the same person. It was felt that these roles should be kept separate to avoid any potential conflict of interest. The cost therefore equates to £5,113.06 if the full amount is paid.

APPENDIX A

MINUTES of the meeting of the INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL held at the Council Offices, Coalville on FRIDAY, 6 APRIL 2018.

Present: Stephen Barkby, Trevor Moore and Elaine Oldham

Officers: Melanie Long, Democratic Services Team Manager.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Margaret Dadley.

2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

RESOLVED:- That Elaine Oldham be appointed Chair for the meeting.

3. CHAIRMANS ALLOWANCE – LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE

The Panel considered whether a Special Responsibility Allowance should be payable to the Chair of the Local Plan Committee. The Panel received a report which explained that, following a recent Planning Peer Review, a recommendation was agreed by Council at its meeting on 20 March 2018 that the Local Plan Advisory Committee be given a new name (the Local Plan Committee) and an increased membership to allow for greater member involvement in strategic decision making and better accountability. It is intended that the reformed committee will have a significant role to play in developing how the emerging National Planning Policy Framework affects NWLDC, the delivery of new homes and driving the review of the Local Plan.

The Local Plan Advisory Committee in its current form was not seen as having a sufficient decision-making role and influence and it was felt that there should be clearer links to the Local Plan and the importance of the plan-led system required in committee reports. With that in mind, it was agreed to give the Local Plan Committee delegated decision-making powers over relevant functions.

It was noted that the Committee would meet on no fewer occasions than the other Committees and that additional briefings and or site visits may be required, if and as necessary. The Panel considered that the changes made to the allocation of specific planning functions was a very proactive and welcome approach and that the proposed workload of the Chair would warrant the payment of an allowance. Their only concern was that there may be a conflict if the Chair of the Planning Committee and the Local Plan Committee were the same person and it was their view that these roles should be kept separate.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Panel considered that an SRA should be payable to the Chair of the Local Plan Committee in order to be consistent with the other Committees for which an allowance was payable. It was considered that this should be at the same rate as the other Committees and should be payable from the beginning of the 2018/19 civic year. It was therefore

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT

- (1) AN ALLOWANCE BE PAID TO THE CHAIR OF THE LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE AT THE SAME RATE AS THE CHAIR'S ALLOWANCE PAYABLE FOR ALL OTHER COMMITTEES;
- (2) THE CHAIR OF THE LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE AND THE PLANNING COMMITTEE SHOULD NOT BE THE SAME PERSON;
- (3) THE ALLOWANCE BE PAYABLE FROM THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE 2018/19 CIVIC YEAR.

The meeting commenced at 10.00am and closed at 10.25am