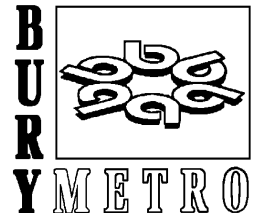


**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL
TO THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 27 JUNE 2007**



1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, Local Authorities must establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel. The purpose of the Panel is to make recommendations to the Local Authority about the allowances to be paid to Members.
- 1.2 The Regulations require that Independent Remuneration Panels should have at least three Members. Members of Panels cannot be Members of any Local Authority in respect of which the Panel makes recommendations and must be independent of the Council.
- 1.3 Bury MBC has appointed an Independent Remuneration Panel which currently consists of the following Members:-

Colin Smith OBE (Chair) Retired Local Authority Chief Executive.

Gloria Oates OBE DL : Resident of Bury and former Chief Executive of Oldham NHS Trust

Ronald Schwarz : Resident of Bury and retired Head Teacher.

Colin Nichol : Millgate Shopping Centre Manager.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Panel has carried out a review of the current Members' Allowances Scheme for Bury and met on 21 May 2007 to consider its findings and recommendations.
- 2.2 Present on 21 May were Colin Smith (Chair), Colin Nichol and Ronald Schwarz. An apology for absence was received from Gloria Oates.
- 2.3 The review took into consideration all aspects of the scheme and an evaluation was made as to whether any changes should be recommended to the Council.
- 2.4 The recommendations made by the Panel are set out in Section 7. A copy of the draft scheme incorporating the suggested changes is attached.

3. FINDINGS

- 3.1 The Panel considered that the current scheme, which was last updated in November 2005, had operated without problems or comment, and an analysis of other schemes in Greater Manchester had shown that the scheme was consistent with others.

3.2 The Panel considered that there were three issues which necessitated further consideration and these were:-

- Payment of special responsibility allowances to the Council's representatives on the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority (GMWDA).
- Payment of subsistence allowances.
- Chairs of the former Area Boards.

4. GMWDA

4.1 The GMWDA does not have the power to pay an allowance directly and has, therefore, asked individual authorities to meet the cost of the allowances. This allowance can be paid to a Member in addition to a Special Responsibility Allowance which is paid for occupying one of the positions set out in Schedule 1 to the Scheme. The Panel came to the view that the payment of the allowance in respect of membership of the GMWDA should be referred to explicitly in the Scheme and fixed at the level of £1,728, which is consistent with other constituent authorities in the GMWDA.

5. SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCES

5.1 The Panel noted that under Section 12 of the Scheme, "Other Allowances", there is no reference to subsistence allowances.

6. CHAIRS OF THE FORMER AREA BOARDS

6.1 Under the existing scheme, one of the positions which attracts a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) is that of Chair of an Area Board. Following the recent Area Initiative Review, the Area Boards are to be replaced by Local Area Partnerships, which will reflect the existing Area Board boundaries.

As the bodies are changing from a Committee format to a partnership one, the Panel considered whether Chairs of these new bodies should receive an SRA.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 The Council is asked to approve the following recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel arising from its review of the Members' Allowances Scheme:-

- (1) The addition to Section 4 of "(3) A Councillor who is a Member of the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority may receive two special responsibility allowances under this scheme."
- (2) The addition to Section 12 of "(3) Subsistence Allowances will be paid in accordance with the provisions set out in Schedule 3."

- (3) The position of Chair of a Local Area Partnership to attract a Special Responsibility Allowance to recognise the key role of these bodies within the Council's Area Initiative Programme.

COLIN SMITH
CHAIR OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL