

TITLE	: MEMBERSHIP OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL		
TO / ON	: STANDARDS COMMITTEE		25 SEPTEMBER 2003
BY	: MONITORING OFFICER		
STATUS	: FOR PUBLICATION		

1.0 TYPE OF DECISION

1.1 What type of decision is to be taken:-

EXECUTIVE DECISION		COUNCIL DECISION	
Key		Non Key	

1.2 If a key decision, has it been included in the Forward Plan

Inclusion in Forward Plan	N/A	Date of Plan	
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2.0 SUMMARY

At the last meeting of the Standards Committee held on 8 July 2003, clarification was sought as to whether Independent Members of the Standards Committee could also be members of the Independent Remuneration Panel. This report highlights previous decisions taken in this regard and provides the current position based on Government Regulations.

3.0 OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDED OPTIONS (with reasons)

That Members note the report and the fact that it would not be permissible for Independent Members of the Standards Committee to serve as members of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

4.0 THIS REPORT HAS THE FOLLOWING IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Aims Councils are required to establish Independent Remuneration Panels which have the task of making recommendations regarding the payment of allowances to elected members.

Policy Framework The Members' Allowance Scheme is published each year and is contained within the Council Constitution.

Statement by Monitoring Officer The drafting of this report has been undertaken with due regard to the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

Statement by Director of Finance and E-Government There are no financial implications contained within this report.

Human Resource IT/Land and Property Implications There are no implications arising from this report.

Wards/Area Boards affected None

Scrutiny Panel's Interest None

Consultations None

Call-in Not applicable

Briefings	Executive Members/ Chair		Chief Executive	
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5.0 INTRODUCTION

5.1 This report deals with the issue of whether the Independent Members of the Standards Committee may also serve on the Independent Remuneration Panel.

6.0 BACKGROUND

6.1 In 2001, the Council invited applications from those interested in serving on the Independent Remuneration Panel and from those interested in becoming an Independent Member of the Standards Committee.

6.2 The Independent Members of the Standards Committee also submitted applications to serve on the Independent Remuneration Panel. At that time the Government had announced its intention to enable allowances to be paid to co-opted and independent members. In view of this, it was not considered appropriate for Independent Members of the Standards Committee to also serve on a body making recommendations on allowances for both elected and co-opted members.

7.0 THE CURRENT POSITION

7.1 The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 state that the Members' Allowance Scheme may provide for the payment of an allowance to co-opted members in respect of attendance at conferences and meetings.

7.2 In addition, Guidance issued by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister states that members of the Independent Remuneration Panel cannot also be members of a committee or sub-committee in respect of which the Panel makes recommendations. This includes co-opted members.

7.3 The issue of allowances for co-opted members has not yet been the subject of consideration by the Independent Remuneration Panel but the Panel will be asked in the near future to consider the matter.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 As the Independent Remuneration Panel has to consider the issue of allowances for co-opted members, it would be contrary to the Government's Guidance and not therefore appropriate to change the current policy (whereby a member of the Panel cannot also serve as an independent Member of the Standards Committee).

Background documents:

Report to the Standards Committee on Members Allowances, dated 18 March 2003.
Minute s.289 of the Standards Committee of 8 July 2003.

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