

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

12 JANUARY 2011

Allowances for Standards Committee Members

Purpose of Report

1. To inform the Standards Committee co-opted members of the action they could take if they wish to freeze their allowances at the current level.

Background

2. At its last meeting the Standards Committee resolved:

“To ask the Monitoring Officer to investigate, and bring a report to the next meeting, on the possibility of freezing the co-optees allowances at their present level.”

3. Members’ allowances are agreed by the Council in accordance with the provisions of the Local Authorities (Members’ Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003. The scheme continues to have effect until revoked or amended by a resolution of the Council.
4. The Council has agreed that the scheme be updated annually to phase in the proposed increases in allowances through to 2013 at the rates shown in Part 14 of the Constitution (see below).

Co-opted Members’ Allowance	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Chairman of Standards Committee	£5,200	£5,354	£5,509	£5,663
Independent member of Standards Committee (8)	£2,010	£2,087	£2,163	£2,240
Town/Parish Council member of Standards Committee (8)	£2,010	£2,087	£2,163	£2,240

Main considerations for the Committee

5. The level of members' allowances is considered by an Independent Remuneration Panel which then makes recommendations to the full Council.
6. As outlined above, only the full Council can amend the members' allowances scheme. However, there is provision under the regulations for a councillor or co-optee to forgo any part of his or her entitlement to an allowance under the scheme. This can be done by giving notice in writing to the Director of Resources.
7. A request to forgo entitlement to an allowance must be submitted on an individual basis and cannot be made by the committee as a whole.
8. If any co-opted member of the Standards Committee wishes to only receive their current level of allowance with no increase they should give notice of this request in writing before the start of the new financial year (by 31 March 2011).

Risks

9. There are no risks associated with the proposals made in this report.

Proposal

10. The Standards Committee members are asked to note the action they could take if they wish to only receive the current level of allowances.

Ian Gibbons
Monitoring Officer

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The following unpublished documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report: None