

Agenda extract from last year

The Committee is reminded that a remuneration scheme agreed by the Independent Remuneration Panel applies to duties undertaken by councillors in the overview and scrutiny arena. This currently amounts to £10,000 and is allocated at the discretion of the Chairman of the Management Committee. The Chairman is keen to be transparent in his dealings and has indicated his intention to apply the following principles to the allocation of payments. These are based on the original scheme devised in 2007 and refined over time in the light of experience and representations made.

- Based on a share system per qualifying activity.
- The more activity undertaken by a member the more shares they receive subject to a minimum attendance threshold of 50%.
- The share value varies year on year depending on the number of qualifying activities and agreed budget.
- Exclusion from the scheme for those members in receipt of an Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) under the Members' Allowances Scheme.
- Recognition that an ad hoc (rather than standing) activity that spanned more than one municipal year would only be counted once unless otherwise determined.
- Increased value (x 2 shares) for being Chairman/Lead Member of a Task Group
- Inclusion of committee briefings and fact finding exercises (to recognise the work done of select committee vice-chairmen not in receipt of an SRA)
- Greater recognition of joint working with partners and attendance at networks (predominantly in the Health Scrutiny Arena).

This meeting of the Management Committee is the last scrutiny activity before the election. The allocation of shares and resulting payments to individual members will be finalised after the meeting and forwarded to payroll for processing. A covering letter on behalf of the Chairman will be sent to each member setting out how the payment was calculated.

The Committee is asked to note the arrangements for the allocation of scrutiny payments for 2012/13.

Minute extract from last year

The Chairman reminded the Committee that the remuneration scheme agreed by the Independent Remuneration Panel applied to duties undertaken by councillors in the overview and scrutiny arena. The current amount of £10,000 was allocated at the discretion of the Chairman of the Management Committee.

In noting that the Chairman wished to be transparent in his dealings with the payments, he indicated his intention was to apply the principles detailed in the agenda sheet to the allocation of payments, identical to last year.

Members were informed that the principles were based on the original scheme devised in 2007 and refined over time in the light of experience and representations. It was clarified that bullet point 4 on the agenda sheet referred to the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Scrutiny arena only.

Members in supporting the principles for the allocation of payments made observations about the commitment of some Councillors once they had been appointed to a Task Group and the detailed work commenced.

It was suggested that there was a need to reward genuine commitment and this could be an issue to look at over the next twelve months. However, a number of members were not convinced that the current remuneration scheme made an impact on commitment and that it was more to do with having an interest in the topic and a feeling of making a difference that were the main factors. Other comments made included the length taken to conduct a review, an opportunity for back benchers to become involved in Task Groups, the use of a pro-forma for the setting up of Task Groups and the level of understanding by the membership of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

Resolved:

That the arrangements for the allocation of scrutiny payments for 2012/13 as set out on the agenda sheet be agreed.

That the Scrutiny remuneration scheme be reviewed over the next twelve months so that genuine commitment to Task Groups is rewarded in the most appropriate way.