

### **Fees and Expenses for Task Groups**

#### **Purpose of Report**

1. To outline plans to make payments to non-councillors who serve on Task Groups as recognition of the commitment involved in this work.

#### **Background**

2. At previous meetings of the Committee acknowledgement has been made of the amount of work undertaken by the long-running Task Groups working on changes in community health services, and that this will continue into the future.
3. Members of the council serving on task groups receive their basic allowance and, for the first time, a small additional sum based on a share scheme to encourage greater engagement in the overview and scrutiny function.
4. This was recommended by the Independent Panel on Members Allowances and is funded through reductions elsewhere in the scheme.

#### **The Current Position**

5. Co-opted members are re-numerated by the respective district councils, or in the case of those on the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee, under the scheme for members' allowances.
6. This has produced a slight anomaly where stakeholder representatives, although not elected or co-opted members of the Committee, have contributed, or in the case of Pathways for Change, led a task group review.
7. The Council's Constitution states that Overview & Scrutiny Committees may appoint advisors and assessors and invite witnesses to assist them in undertaking their work. The Committee may pay a reasonable expense for doing so. A small budget exists for Health Scrutiny for this which is managed on the Committee's behalf by the Health Scrutiny Officer in consultation with the Chairman.

8. It is felt appropriate that the contribution made by stakeholder representatives if appointed to task groups should be recognised through the payment of a small fee from this budget. In the absence of any predetermined arrangement, it is recommended that the calculation of the sum should be related to the amount paid under the new share scheme for overview and scrutiny members. This currently stands at approximately £160 per year.

### **Recommendations**

9. The Committee is asked to approve the principle of this proposal with the calculation of the exact sums being left to the Health Scrutiny Officer in consultation with the Chairman.

### **Financial implications**

10. There is a small financial implication for the County Council. It is planned that the fees for non-elected task group members would be met by the existing budget for health scrutiny activity.
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