

EXTRACT FROM THE MEETING OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 19 NOVEMBER 2003

Present: Councillor Bodfish (Deputy Chair); Councillors Mrs Brown, Burgess (Deputy Chair), Mrs Drake, Elgood, Fitch, Hawkes, Hazelgrove, John (Deputy Chair), Mitchell, Mrs Norman, Oxley (OS), Peltzer Dunn, Randall and Taylor

127. Review of the Members' Allowances Scheme

127.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director, Communications & Democratic Services that considered the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel on the Review of the Members' Allowance Scheme in the light of new regulations affecting Members' Allowances which came into force on 1st May 2003.

127.2 Simon Keane, the Chair of the Panel, presented the report. He thanked the Councillors for the information provided which had enabled the Panel to conduct its review. The changes in boundaries and a reduction in Councillors had impacted greatly on Members workload and the Panel had been impressed with the amount of time put in by councillors to represent their wards and attend to council matters. Comparisons with other authorities had been taken into account, although it was recognised that Brighton & Hove structure was unique.

127.3 Mr Keane stressed the importance of pensions to encourage younger people to put themselves forward as Councillors. He also explained the rationale behind the subsistence rates and the purposes for which they should be used. Members concurred that the financial implications of including Members into the Pensions Scheme needed to be assessed before a decision could be taken.

127.4 Each of the Group Leaders thanked the Panel for its very thorough work and comprehensive report.

127.5 **RESOLVED** (1) That the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, with the exception of Section 6 (Pensions for Councillors), and the related recommendation (j) in Section 9, be accepted.

(2) That the issue of pensions for Councillors be deferred until officers have calculated the financial implications and assessed the likely take-up amongst Members.

(3) That the Chief Executive be granted delegated authority to amend the Brighton & Hove Members' Allowance Scheme to reflect the foregoing and submit it to Council for approval (*see draft scheme attached*).

(5) That an allowance of £200 p.a. be payable to each of the Members of the Independent Remuneration Panel with effect from 1st April 2003, in recognition of their time commitment and their important role.

127.6 **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** - That the revised scheme be adopted and that the revised scheme be issued following Council approval.