

## **COUNCIL – 27 April 2009**

### **MATTERS REQUIRING APPROVAL BY THE COUNCIL (Additional list)**

The following minutes require confirmation by the Council.

#### **Cabinet – 23 April 2009**

##### **MINUTE 470 – MEMBERS ALLOWANCES**

The Director of Law, HR and Asset Management requested the Cabinet to make recommendations to the Annual Meeting of the Council in respect of the Members' Allowances Scheme and, in particular, to consider any up-rating of the allowances, as permitted under the scheme. He reported that each increase of 1% in the basic allowance would add £8,262 to the members' services budget, based on the current basic allowance and available special responsibility allowances. However, not all of the SRAs were currently taken up, which meant that, if an increase of up to 2.9% were recommended, it could be accommodated within the existing budget.

The setting of a members' allowances scheme was a decision for the whole Council, based on recommendations from the Cabinet and he reported that any arrangement to implement an up-rating, as allowed by the Scheme, could remain in force for up to four years, i.e. until 2012. He envisaged no other changes to the Scheme and did not intend to request the Independent Remuneration Panel to meet.

##### **RECOMMENDED –**

**(1) That Cabinet notes that on the basis of the formula recommended by the Independent Panel, the basic allowance for Councillors would increase to £9500, an increase of 3.6%. However, Cabinet recognises the need to show restraint in the public finances at these difficult economic times and therefore proposes that the basic allowance remains at its current value of £9,171 at this time.**

**(2) That the dependant carer's allowance be increased to £5.73 per hour.**

##### **MINUTE 471 – OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

Further to minute 415 (19 March 2009) the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management reported that the proposal to move to five Overview and Scrutiny Committees had been referred to the three Party Leaders for their comments and he set out a number of suggestions that had been made by the Leader of the Conservative Group.

The Director set out the draft terms of reference for the five Overview and Scrutiny Committees, based on the existing Committees and for an over-arching Overview and Scrutiny Committee to perform a role in relation to programme co-ordination and call-ins.

He reported also that section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 was being brought into force on 30 April 2009. This required every local authority to establish a crime and disorder scrutiny committee. He indicated that some local authorities had set up separate crime and disorder sub-committees, whilst others were incorporating the committee into an existing scrutiny committee, which he believed to be more in keeping with the Council's aspiration of reducing the number of overview and scrutiny committees.

#### **RECOMMENDED –**

**(1) That the Scrutiny Chairs Committee is titled the Scrutiny Programme Board and that additional to those duties set out in the appendix to the Director's report, the Committee should also be responsible for -**

- **the development and monitoring of an annual scrutiny work programme;**
- **undertaking scrutiny in its own right with regard to cross-cutting or strategic issues not covered by other Overview and Scrutiny Committees;**
- **identifying and sharing good scrutiny practice across all Overview and Scrutiny Committees.**

**(2) That each of the five other Overview and Scrutiny Committees be represented on the Scrutiny Programme Board.**

**(3) That the Excellent Council Committee is titled Council Excellence.**

**(4) That the role of the Crime and Disorder Committee is incorporated into the work and terms of reference of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the requirements of the Police and Justice Act 2006 as amended by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.**

**(5) That in the interests of accountability and transparency, all reports to Scrutiny should identify the relevant Cabinet Portfolio under which the item falls.**