

**Summary Notes Arising from the Meeting held between Panel Representatives
and Council Members on 19 June 2014**

In attendance: Cllr Benson
Cllr Clish-Green
Mr Leece (Independent Panel Member)
Cllr Marsh
Mr Medhurst (Independent Panel Chairman)
Cllr Moyse
Cllr Sampson
Cllr Sanders
Cllr Whitcomb

Apologies: Cllr Baldwin
Mrs Mitchell (Independent Panel Member)

Main Discussion Points:

- The tight timetable allocated by officers for the review being the reason for the Panel deciding that it did not wish to meet with Members during the interim review;
- In explaining the recommended Group Size threshold of 8 Members, the Panel advised that it wished to eliminate a Group Leaders SRA for smaller groups and felt that a Group Size comprising approximately a quarter of the total membership was a reasonable number to warrant a SRA. When pressed further, the Panel confirmed that it was not wholly committed to this recommendation and was fairly relaxed should the Council conclude that the size threshold be set at 6 Members;
- Cllr Sampson advised that a formulaic approach which resulted in the Group Leaders SRA being directly linked to Group Size was supported by the Independent Group;
- There was a recognition that the next full review (with a newly convened Panel) would need to undertake a fundamental belt and braces review of the Allowances Scheme;

Appendix B

- A number of Members emphasised the level of commitment, work and time associated with the role of P+L Committee Vice-Chairman, which they felt merited the role being allocated a SRA. In reply, the Panel advised that it had continued to adopt the same principle whereby, to keep the number of SRAs in check, it did not support payment of SRAs for Vice-Chairmen. Since this was the last Review to be undertaken by the Panel in its current form, it was not minded to change its policy in this regard, but did acknowledge the demands upon all P+L Committee Members;
- As a general point, a Member commented that the work of a Councillor was ever increasing and the Basic Allowance was not sufficient to either reflect the role or attract prospective candidates to stand for election;
- In respect of adopting a process regarding attendance and claiming at conferences, seminars, training events etc, the Panel confirmed its views that this was an in-house matter which should be determined by the Council;
- Whilst all Members theoretically could claim the IT Allowance, the Panel acknowledged that less than half currently did. As a consequence, the Panel appreciated that reference to the Policy being 'generous' did therefore not apply for all Members.