

**EXTRACT FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 10 MARCH 2009**

Subject:	Members Allowances		
Date of Meeting:	19 March 2009		
Report of:	Director of Strategy and Governance		
Key Decision:	No		
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Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE****4.00pm 10 MARCH 2009****COMMITTEE ROOM 1
HOVE TOWN HALL****MINUTES**

Present: Councillor Ann Norman (Chairman); Councillor Simpson (Deputy Chairman), Councillors Mrs Brown, Kennedy, Mears, Morgan, Oxley, Simson, Taylor and Watkins.

***79. MEMBERS ALLOWANCES – REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT
REMUNERATION PANEL**

79.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Strategy & Governance, which detailed the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP), in respect of its work in reviewing Members' Allowances (for copy see minute book).

79.2 The Head of Democratic Services introduced the report and explained that the IRP was currently undertaking a review of Members' Allowances with a view to bringing forward recommendations in 2010. However, the IRP had wanted to inform the council of its current position in respect of the review and having previously indicated its view that the level of Basic Allowance should be increased annually in

line with the council's salary inflationary rate. However, the Panel had been informed of the indication given at the Budget Council that the Conservative Group were mindful of the current economic climate and would therefore not be taking any inflationary increase for 2009/10. With this in mind the Panel had therefore put forward the recommendation that the council should determine whether or not to implement the potential increase for the Basic Allowance based on the assumed salary rate of inflation of 2.3%

- 79.3 Members of the Committee noted that the information and expressed the view that the decision whether or not to take any increase in the level of allowances should be for each individual councillor to determine. Members were very appreciative of the Panel's work and its independence and wanted to ensure that this situation was preserved and asked for clarification in respect of the recommendations to be put forward to the council.
- 79.4 The Head of Law stated that the committee had a number of options open to them, i.e. they could endorse the Panel's recommendations, propose no change to the current level of allowances, or propose that the level of basic allowance is increased in line with the rate of inflation in accordance with the Panel's previous presumptions. If the increase was proposed then it could be on the understanding that the decision whether or not to accept the increase would be for each individual councillor to take.
- 79.5 **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND –**
- (1) That the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, as set out in its report be noted;
 - (2) That in accordance with the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel as agreed by Council in April 2008, the level of Basic Allowance be increased by the assumed salary rate of inflation of 2.3% for the municipal year commencing 15 May 2009; subject to individual Members' rights to accept or decline the increase;
 - (3) That the position be reviewed following the receipt of the Independent Remuneration Panel's report in 2010; and
 - (4) That the allowance payable to each of the members of the Independent Remuneration Panel continue to be increased by the council's salary inflation assumption of 2.3% for 2009 with effect from 15 May 2009, in recognition of their time commitment and their important role.