

## **Travelling allowances for councillors on journeys to and from town and parish council meetings within their division**

### **1 Background**

- 1.1 At the County Council meeting on 20 February 2013, members considered the report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel. One of the recommendations was that *travelling allowances are made payable to councillors on journeys to and from parish and town council meetings within their division.*
- 1.2 Council agreed that the Independent Remuneration Panel should look at this area in more detail with a view to making a recommendation early in the new Council.
- 1.3 The Independent Remuneration Panel met on 22 April 2013 to consider whether travelling allowances should be paid to councillors for journeys to and from parish and town council meetings, together with an estimated cost per year.
- 1.4 Within Gloucestershire, Gloucester City Council, Stroud District Council and the Forest of Dean District Council all make travelling allowances payable to councillors on journeys to and from town and parish council meetings.
- 1.5 Devon and Somerset County Councils are two authorities which are comparable to Gloucestershire County Council and both make travelling allowances payable to councillors on journeys to and from town and parish council meetings within their division.
- 1.6 The estimated yearly cost for paying councillors travelling allowances on journeys to and from parish and town councils meetings within their division, using the average distance to and from meetings at 15 miles is around £7000. As the number of councillors is reducing from 63 to 53, this in itself is likely to result in an overall reduction in the number of miles claimed and a reduction in the overall cost.
- 1.7 Members of the panel are strongly in support of councillors being recompensed for the travelling they undertake in relation to their formal attendance at town and parish council meetings within their division. The panel believe that attendance at 50% of the Town and Parish Council Meetings in the County

Councillors division is essential or at least preferable in order to better represent the views of their constituents to County Council.

## **2 Recommendation**

- 2.1 That Gloucestershire County Council make travelling allowances payable to councillors on journeys to and from parish and town council meetings within their division.

**William Alexander**  
**Chairman of the Independent Remuneration Panel**

**22 April 2013**