

# REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

DECEMBER 2011

## 1. Introduction

1.1 This report has been produced by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Gloucestershire, which is appointed by the County Council and consists of independent members, drawn from the community. The Panel's role is to make recommendations to the Council on the level of allowances paid to Members.

1.2 The Members of the Panel:

- Philip Lowery            A former adviser to the Social Services Committee. Member of the Independent Advisory Group (IAG) of the Criminal Justice Board.
- Quentin Tallon            Cheltenham TUC, with broad experience of trade union and other negotiations and also work in the voluntary sector.
- William Alexander        Former Group Personnel Manager for a major UK joinery company. Parish Councillor since 1979. Member, Valuation Tribunal Service.
- Fiona Miles                Until recently worked as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Respiratory Medicine at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, having worked within the NHS since 1970. Is actively involved with RSPB in Gloucestershire. In the past has been Treasurer & Secretary to Play Groups and Royal College of Nursing Specialist Group. Trustee of Gloucestershire Chest Fund.
- Sidney Pritchard        Part-time Consultant. Retired Local  
(resigned 9.12.11)        Government Officer. Served for 42 years in all, in posts ranging from Treasurer through Strategic Director to Managing Director. Board Member Gloucestershire Housing Association and Gloucestershire Probation Area.

1.3 The Panel's recommendations relate to the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013 and are in keeping with statutory provisions namely –

1.3.1 Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Local Government Act 2006

1.3.2 The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 ("The Allowances Regulations") and

1.3.3 The Local Government Pension Scheme and Discretionary Compensation (Local Authorities Members in England) Regulations 2003 (the "Pensions Regulations")

2. **Report** – The Panel met on 4 May, 25 November & 13 December 2011.

On 21 June 2011, the Panel met with Cllr D Prince at his request. They listened carefully to his comments and engaged in meaningful conversation but decided that his requests were outside the scope of the Panel, and no further action could be taken by the Independent Remuneration Panel.

The Chairman of the Independent Remuneration Panel and Sharon Clutterbuck, Principal Democratic Services Officer, had attended the annual meeting of the Chairmen of County and District Remuneration Panels for the South West region on 30 June 2011.

Despite the economic climate, the Panel will meet at least on an annual basis to review allowances and should events materially change will meet as required. Whilst the Panel did not consider it appropriate to increase allowances at this moment in time, it did feel that due to the increases in the cost of fuel that the mileage rate paid to Councillors should be increased to the Inland Revenue's authorised mileage allowance payment of 45p with effect from 1 April 2012. The Panel will carry out an in-depth review of all allowances with the intention of offering its recommendations to Council ready for 2013/14.

The Panel recognises the value of the commitment of County Councillors to the people of Gloucestershire and congratulate them on their untiring efforts in this cause.

The Panel would wish to record its gratitude to Sharon Clutterbuck, Principal Democratic Services Officer for her assistance in the work of this Panel.

3. **Recommendations**

1. That no change be made to the Basic Rate of Allowance for 2012/13.
2. That all other allowances in the scheme remain unchanged for 2012/13.
3. That Gloucestershire County Council revert to the Inland Revenue's authorised mileage allowance payment of 45p per mile with effect from 1 April 2012.