

Appendix 1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

THE PANEL'S DETERMINATIONS

Basic Allowances

1. For the Initial Report we have decided that the increase in the Basic Allowance should be based upon the relevant percentage increase in local government pay. Hence, the maximum level of the Basic Allowance for 2007/08 (£12,718 pa) will be increased in line with the 2.45% pay offer for local government staff in 2008/09. This results in a maximum Basic Allowance payable of £13,030 pa in 2008/09 (paragraph 6.10).

Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs)

2. We consider the link between the remuneration level of council leaders and 'backbench' Members of the National Assembly for Wales to be no longer relevant (paragraph 7.12).

3. We have decided that SRAs payable in 2008/09 should be increased in line with the increase in the Basic Allowance, that is by 2.45%. Hence the maximum amounts payable for each SRA band, by population grouping are (paragraph 7.15):

	Group A		Group B		Group C		Group D	
	08/09	07/08	08/09	07/08	08/09	07/08	08/09	07/08
Band 1	£60,545	£59,097	£51,895	£50,654	£43,247	£42,213	£34,596	£33,769
Band 2	£48,434	£47,276	£41,516	£40,523	£34,597	£33,770	£27,679	£27,017
Band 3	£24,206	£23,627	£20,757	£20,261	£17,299	£16,885	£13,839	£13,508
Band 4	£14,532	£14,184	£12,454	£12,156	£10,378	£10,130	£8,304	£8,105
Band 5	£9,689	£9,457	£8,304	£8,105	£6,918	£6,753	£5,534	£5,402
Band 6	£4,844	£4,728	£4,153	£4,054	£3,460	£3,377	£2,768	£2,702

Care Allowances

4. In the interests of consistency, the level of Care Allowance payable in 2008/09 has been increased by 2.45%, in line with the Basic Allowance, to a maximum of £384 per month (paragraph 8.7).

5. We have further decided that the Care Allowance will remain as an allowance that contributes towards caring costs rather than a reimbursement of actual costs. Councillors will continue to be required to satisfy their councils that it is reasonable and appropriate for them to receive this allowance (paragraph 8.7).

Travelling Allowances

6. We have decided that, at this stage, travel allowances should continue to be claims based for undertaking approved duties, rather than made as lump-sum or some other form of payments (paragraph 9.7).

7. For 2008/09 we have decided that the maximum travel rates payable should be the rates set by HM Revenue & Customs for the use of private cars, motor cycles and pedal cycles plus any passenger supplement. Councils are therefore required to introduce these as maximum rates, thereby removing the historic catch-up link to the travel rates for Assembly Members (paragraph 9.8).

8. All other claims for travel, such as bus/taxi fares, should be accompanied by appropriate receipts showing the actual expense, subject to any requirement or limitation that a council may determine. That said council members should always be mindful of choosing the most cost-effective method of travel (paragraph 9.9).

Subsistence Allowances

9. We have set a day subsistence rate of a maximum of £26 per day, (including breakfast when not provided as part of overnight accommodation). This would be a reimbursement of actual costs, for approved duties with receipts to be provided (paragraph 9.12).

10. We have set the allowance for an overnight stay at a maximum of £105 for London and £90 for elsewhere, with receipts to be provided, for approved duties (paragraph 9.13).

11. A maximum of £25 is available for an overnight stay with friends or relatives whilst on approved duty (paragraph 9.14).

Co-optees' Allowance

12. We have decided that the new Co-optees' Allowance (payable only to co-optees with voting rights) should be set at two levels (paragraph 10.6).

13. For those co-optees who chair council committees the allowance is set at a maximum of £1,450 per year. For other co-optees the allowance is set at a maximum of £760 per year (paragraphs 10.7 and 10.8).