

Report 11.87
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File E/05/02/03

Committee Council
Author Fran Wilde, Chair

Policy on elected members' allowances and expenses

1. Purpose

To amend provisions in the Council's policy on elected members' allowances and expenses regarding vehicle mileage and travel time allowances.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

On 18 November 2010 the Council adopted its policy on elected members' allowances and expenses for approval by the Remuneration Authority (the Authority). The policy was consistent with the advice at that time received from the Authority. On 14 December 2010 the Council amended the policy to align with further advice received from the Authority regarding mileage allowances.

In response to submissions from a number of local authorities the Authority has now reviewed the advice it previously provided and has issued its final view on the rules regarding vehicle mileage and travel time allowances. The Authority's letter is attached as **Attachment 1**.

The Authority has changed three elements of its earlier advice:

- For mileage, the 30 kilometre threshold before mileage is payable has changed from a "per event" basis to a "per day" basis. This change takes into account that Councillors may attend more than one event on official Council business in any one day, and that a single 30 kilometre deduction for the whole day is appropriate.
- The travel time allowance provision is changed from a "per event" basis to a "per day" basis.

- The limit of 100 hours for which travel time may be paid has been removed.

4. Proposed amendments to the policy

It is proposed that the Council's policy on elected members' allowances and expenses be amended to align with the updated advice from the Authority regarding vehicle mileage and travel time allowances. A draft update of the policy is attached as **Attachment 2**.

5. Communication

The Council's decisions will be communicated to the Authority to enable the revised policy to be approved.

6. Recommendations

That the Council:

1. ***Receives** the report.*
2. ***Notes** the content of the report.*
3. ***Amends** the Elected Members' Allowances and Expenses Policy that was adopted on 18 November 2010 and amended on 14 December 2010 by replacing the "per event" reference relating to mileage and travel time to "per day" and deleting the reference to a maximum number of hours for which travel time may be paid.*
4. ***Notes** that the amended policy is subject to approval by the Remuneration Authority.*

Report prepared by:

Fran Wilde
Chair

Attachment 1: 23 February 2011 letter from the Remuneration Authority

Attachment 2: Draft update of the Policy on Elected Members' Allowances and Expenses