

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Agenda Item No:

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CABINET

MONDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2000 AT 10.00 A.M.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MONDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2000 AT 2.15 P.M.

**MEMBERS ALLOWANCES - REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION BODIES**

Report of the County Secretary

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1. Purpose of Report

To ask the Cabinet to consider amending the Scheme for Members Allowances to clarify the entitlement of members appointed to certain bodies associated with the East of England Local Government Association (LGA) and the national LGA.

2. Background

The Scheme for Members Allowances entitles members to claim travel and subsistence for attendance at meetings of certain specified bodies where they are nominated to represent the County Council at those meetings.

The specified bodies listed in the Scheme include:

East of England LGA - Conference
East of England LGA - Executive Committee
East of England - Regional Assembly
National Local Government Association.

The entitlement also applies to Committees and Working Groups of any body specifically named.

Members of the County Council are appointed to certain bodies associated with the East of England LGA and the LGA itself by regional or national political parties/groups, not by direct appointment by the County Council. Those bodies are:

East of England LGA: Executive Committee (3 members)
Regional Assembly (3 members)
Europe Panel (3 members)
EEDA Liaison Panel (1 member)

National LGA: Fire Service Forum (2 members)
 Fire Service Executive (1 member)
 Management Executive (1 member)
 Social Affairs & Health Executive (1 member)
 Strategic & Financial Forum (1 member)

A strict interpretation of the Scheme would preclude payment of allowances in respect of these bodies because the members are not appointed to represent the County Council. The Scheme is not entirely clear however because some of the bodies are specifically included in the list.

The Scheme should be amended to make members' entitlement clear.

3. Options

Amend the Scheme to make it clear that the entitlement to claim travel and subsistence allowance is restricted to LGA bodies (both regional and national) to which appointments are made by the County Council.

Amend the Scheme to extend the entitlement to claim to all LGA bodies (both regional and national) whether the member is appointed by the Council or through a regional or national political process. It would be possible to charge the expenditure incurred for the latter type of body to the travelling and subsistence budget or to the conferences budget which is allocated between the groups.

4. Financial Implications

The travel and subsistence budget for 2000/1 is £94,240.

Travel and Subsistence claims in respect of the bodies listed above amount to £400 so far in 2000/1.

The budget for attendance at conferences totals £16,768 and is allocated between the three groups.

5. Conclusions

The Cabinet is asked to consider amending the Scheme.

In view of the need to clarify the position as soon as possible, the urgency procedure can be used. The views of the Resources Select Committee Spokesmen on this report have been sought and they will be reported to the meeting. The Cabinet would be able to make a proposal to the Executive Committee in the light of these comments.