

**MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME**

Report of the County Secretary

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The County Council on 13 February 2003 agreed a Members Allowances' Scheme for the year 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004. At its meeting on 15 July the Council agreed a revised scheme to run from 1 August 2003 to 31 March 2004, and revoked that part of the earlier scheme in so far as it applied to the period between 1 August and 31 March.

The current scheme includes Special Responsibility Allowances to be paid to the Leaders of the Labour Group and the Liberal Democrat Group. The amounts paid are based on an earlier recommendation from the Independent Panel on Members' Allowances that such figures should be calculated using the formula:

$$\frac{2x \text{ Basic Allowance}}{\text{number in the largest group on the Council}} \times \text{number in the group in question}$$

The Scheme itself currently does not refer to the formula, nor is there any ability within it for these particular SRAs to be adjusted automatically, should the number of members in each group change during the year.

The Council is now invited to consider whether to amend the Scheme to specify that such SRAs be paid in accordance with the formula; thus allowing for automatic adjustment should numbers change.

If the Council wished, the application of the formula could be backdated so that appropriate adjustments could be made to reflect changes in numbers which have already occurred since the Scheme was made.

*Background material used by the author in compiling this report:*

*Report of the Independent Panel on Members Allowances January 2003.*