

CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 2005

MEMBERS' SCHEME OF ALLOWANCES: DEPENDENT CARERS' ALLOWANCES

RICHARD LONG, DIRECTOR OF LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1 To amend the provisions of the Members' Scheme of Allowances that relate to Dependent Carers' Allowances.

BACKGROUND

- 2 The Council Scheme of Allowances makes provision for two Dependent Carers' Allowances: one payable in respect of child care responsibilities, the other in respect of adult dependants who require care. The current Scheme of Allowances, agreed by Council on 18th May this year, provides as follows:

“A Councillor or Co-opted Member shall be entitled to receive a child care allowance of up to a maximum of £4.85 per hour where he/she has necessarily incurred that expenditure in respect of a child who is looked after by a registered provider whilst the Councillor or Co-opted Member is carrying out an approved duty.

A Councillor or Co-opted Member shall be entitled to receive a carers allowance of up to a maximum of £9.27 per hour where he/she has necessarily incurred that expenditure in respect of an adult who is looked after by a registered provider whilst the Councillor is carrying out an approved duty.”

- 3 Following the recommendations of the Independent Panel on Members' Remuneration, Council has previously agreed (10th December 2003) that both of these Carers' Allowances should be linked to the Statutory Minimum Wage (Child Care Allowance) and the 'contract' rate that the Council pays for domiciliary care (Adult Carers' Allowance).
- 4 Both of the above have recently been increased: the Minimum is increasing from £4.85 to £5.05 with effect from 1 October 2005, and the Council's domiciliary care rate is increasing from £9.27 to £9.45 with effect from 17 October 2005.

RECOMMENDATION

- 5 Members are asked to agree revisions to the Scheme of Allowances to reflect the above mentioned increases as follows:
- (i) That the Child Care element of the Carer's Allowance is increased from £4.85 to £5.05 with effect from 1st October 2005
 - (ii) That the Adult Dependent Care element of the Carer's Allowance is increased from £9.27 to £9.45 with effect from 7th October 2005

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

Minutes of Middlesbrough Council, 10 December 2003
Minutes of Middlesbrough Council, 18 May 2005