

**CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Corporate Affairs Committee was held on 23 December 2009.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Clark (Chair), Councillors Elder, McIntyre and McPartland.

**OFFICERS:** S Harker and R Long.

**\*\*ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** S Faulks, Assistant Deputy Coroner.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were submitted on behalf of Councillors Brunton and Purvis.

**\*\* DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made at this point of the meeting.

**\*\*MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2009 were taken as read and approved as a correct record.

**ASSISTANT DEPUTY CORONER - REMUNERATION**

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services presented a request from the Assistant Deputy Coroner to be paid when he sat as a Coroner. Members were requested to consider whether or not a payment should be made and if so, the level of such payment.

Middlesbrough Council acted as the Lead Authority on behalf of Stockton and Redcar and Cleveland Councils, in respect of matters relating to the Coroner. The Assistant Deputy Coroner had been appointed earlier this year by the present Coroner. In accordance with legislation, that appointment was approved by the Chair of the Council.

A request had been received from the Assistant Deputy Coroner that he should receive remuneration from the Councils in respect of those days when he sat as Coroner. A copy of his submission and a letter from the Deputy Coroner for South Yorkshire in support of the application was attached as an appendix to the submitted report.

The Assistant Deputy Coroner presented his case for remuneration and provided further comparative data with other similar areas to support his application. The number of deaths particularly related to the Teesside area as a result of its industrial heritage, high illegal drug use, two large hospitals and a prison were referred to.

It was noted that provisions in the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 required Councils to pay their Assistant Coroners and prohibited a Senior Coroner paying his or her assistants. However, it was noted that it unlikely that the Act would be brought into force prior to 2012.

**ORDERED** that the application for remuneration for the Assistant Deputy Coroner was not approved.