

By: Fiona Leathers - Chairman of the Independent Remuneration Panel

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To: Standards Committee – 12 May 2010

Subject: MEMBERS' ANNUAL REPORTS

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report contains the comments of the Independent Remuneration Panel on the Members' Annual reports for 2009/10

FOR INFORMATION

1. The Independent Remuneration Panel met on 28 April 2010, to consider Members' Annual reports for 2009/10. The Panel was very pleased with the overall response rate this year, with 83 reports being received before the Panel met, compared to 81 Members having completed their 2008/09 reports before the Panel met last year. One report was not received due to the illness of the Member.
2. The Panel was also very pleased with the high overall standard in that Members had taken seriously the need to account for their time on County Council work; supply details of their remuneration and grant giving; and to explain clearly how they make themselves available to their constituents. The Panel has written to Group Leaders individually, highlighting those reports submitted by Members of their groups that the Panel thought were of very high quality, and also those of poor quality, so that best practice examples can be shared within each group, with the expectation that the general quality will improve further next year.
3. Many Members sent an annual letter to their constituents, including details of how they spent the Local Community Grant; some Members mentioned that they regularly walk round their electoral divisions to talk to constituents, and some Members mentioned that they maintain their own websites to provide information to constituents and a means of contact. The Panel considered that this was excellent practice.
4. The following issues were raised by the Panel:
 - The overall standard of Members' Annual Reports was higher than previous years
 - The level of detail about how Members had utilised their individual Member grants had improved considerably this year
 - The detail provided about the receipt of Members' Allowances, both within KCC and other public authorities was good eventually after a reminder was issued that this information was required, but could be better in future years

- The level of detail provided about the availability of training and development activity for Members, was good
- For future years, all reports should be typed to aid them being read on the website

Recommendation

5. The Committee is invited to receive the report from the Chairman of the Independent Remuneration Panel and comment accordingly

Copies of the Members' Annual Reports are attached for Members of the Standards Committee. Additional copies, if required, can be obtained from Peter Sass (01622 694002).