

By: Fiona Leathers – Chairman of the Independent Remuneration Panel  
Peter Sass – Head of Democratic Services

To: Standards Committee – 11 May 2011

Subject: Members' Annual Reports

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report contains the comments of the Independent Remuneration Panel on the Members' Annual reports for 2010/11

#### FOR INFORMATION

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1. The Independent Remuneration Panel met on 28 April 2011, to consider Members' Annual reports for 2010/11. The Panel was slightly disappointed with the overall response rate this year, with only **79** reports being received before the Panel met, compared to the previous year's excellent response, when 83 reports were received before the Panel meeting. The Panel was not aware of any obvious reasons for any of the late reports this year and the Standards Committee may well conclude that the five Members who didn't submit their reports on time should be mentioned by name in the Committee's Annual Report to the County Council.
2. The Panel were pleased, however, with the high overall standard of most of the reports received in that Members had taken seriously the need to account for their time on County Council work; supply details of their remuneration; and to explain clearly how they make themselves available to their constituents. The Panel noted, however, that staff in Democratic Services had supplied in advance detailed information about Members' attendance at formal meetings and the utilisation of each Member's Individual Grant, which it is hoped was helpful to Members. 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, although the Panel noted that staff in Democratic Services had supplied some information up front and most Members sought the assistance of staff in the Member Support Team to type their reports

- The detail provided about the receipt of Members' Allowances, both within KCC and other public authorities was much improved, compared to previous years, although the Panel were surprised that only one elected Member stated that he was a non-executive Director of a Health Trust and many Members did not give a correct total of allowances received; this is being corrected by the Member Support Team
- The level of detail provided about the availability of training and development activity for Members was good, with only 14 Members having said that they did not undertake any training during the year, but the Panel was disappointed that the "benefits of training" information was sparse

### **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).*