

By: Head of Democratic Services

To: Standards Committee – 30 May 2007

Subject: **MEMBER ANNUAL REPORTS**

Classification Unrestricted

Summary: Comments of Remuneration Panel

1. All 84 Members have eventually completed their annual report and these were considered by the Remuneration Panel on 21 May.
2. Following the introduction of the revised Annual Report, the Panel were pleased to receive comprehensive information from most Members on the allocation of their Local community grants. It is however regrettable once again that not all Members completed their reports as fully as others. One or two reports were so lacking in any detail that they presented no idea whatsoever of the activities of the Members concerned from the perspective of their constituents. However, overall the standard was high and the reports indicated the commitment to local constituents and attendance at various Council meetings.
3. The following issues were raised by the Panel:
  - (a) Since it was agreed by the Council that Annual Reports would be available on the Kent website, it is imperative that all Members complete an electronic version of their report. To date a little over 50% of Members have emailed a copy of their report for placing on the website.
  - (b) Due to wide inconsistencies among Members on recording the total number of County Council meetings held per year, the Panel would like to amend the form so that the total number of full Council meetings is included in future.
  - (c) Details of Political group meetings should not be included in these reports since they are irrelevant in terms of accountability to the public.
  - (d) It perhaps needs to be repeated for the information of some new Members who have questioned the rationale behind the Reports, that the reason they were introduced at the time the Members' Allowances were trebled in 2001 was to provide factual evidence to constituents and the public at large of the wide range of activities carried out by Members on their behalf.
4. Members of the Remuneration Panel agreed to take a random sample of forms in future to check on accuracy of content, parish council and

other meetings attended etc. They will also explore any other issues which are identified in the reports or which are brought to their notice.

*Copies of the Members' Annual Reports are attached for Members of the Standards Committee. Additional copies, if required, can be obtained from Mary Cooper, extension 4354.*

Background documents: Nil