

By: Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership
To: Standards Committee – 22 May 2008
Subject: MEMBERS' ANNUAL REPORTS
Classification: Unrestricted
Summary: Comments of Remuneration Panel
FOR INFORMATION

1. 78 Members had eventually completed their annual report and these were considered by the Remuneration Panel on 12 May. The Panel noted the sickness of two Members (Mr J B O Fullarton and Mrs B J Simpson). Reports for Mr R Bliss and Mr G Horne had not been signed off by the Leader and were not available. Mr K Ferrin and Mr A Crowther had failed to complete their Annual Returns when the Panel met; however Mr Ferrin's report has subsequently been completed, signed off by the Leader and sent to the Members together with the reports from Mr Bliss and Mr Horne. Mr Crowther has failed to complete his Annual Report.
2. The Panel were pleased that the overall the standard was high and the majority of Members have taken the need to account for their time on County Council work seriously, but some were so lacking in any detail that they presented little idea of the activities of the Members concerned, from the perspective of their constituents. Many members sent an annual letter to their constituents, including details of how they spent the Local Community Grant, and the Panel felt this was excellent practice.
3. The following issues were raised by the Panel:
 - (a) Since it was agreed by the Council in June 2007 that Annual Reports would be available on the Kent website this will be processed following this meeting.
 - (b) In future, the number of full Council meetings will be included prior to sending the forms out to prevent any inconsistencies
 - (c) The Panel were disappointed that some reports did not give specific information on the allocation of the Local Community Grants, and will give specific direction in this regard in the Guidance Notes sent out with the Annual Report forms next year.
 - (d) The Panel expressed concerns regarding the apparent lack of on-going training and awaits the report, due to go to the County Council in June 2008, on Member Development Policy.

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