

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

SPECIAL REPORT FROM THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF CABINET MEMBERS FROM SEVEN TO EIGHT AND CABINET MEMBER SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES

MAY 2020

The Independent Remuneration Panel was convened according to the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 to review the impact the Members' Allowances Scheme of an increase from seven members to eight of the Arun District Council Cabinet and make a recommendation to Arun District Council on a change to their Members' Allowances Scheme to accommodate this change. The Panel will make recommendations on Special Responsibility Allowances for the Committee structure coming in to effect in May 2021 later in the year.

Members of the Panel are Andrew Kelly; Alan Ladley; Sarah Miles; John Thompson (Chair) and Celia Thomson-Hitchcock. Roger Hamson completed his term of office on 31 March 2020 before the Panel was reconvened.

Under Article 7, Paragraph 9(b) of Arun District Council's Constitution, the Leader of the Council wishes to increase the number of Cabinet Members from seven (including the Leader and Deputy Leader) to eight. It is not a matter for the Panel to comment on the need or otherwise for the additional post. However, the Panel confirms that the additional Cabinet post is within the maximum composition of eight Cabinet Members defined in Article 7, paragraph 2.0 of the Constitution. The Leader of the Council plans to confirm the additional post at the Annual Council Meeting on 20 May 2020.

The Leader has made it clear that the additional post must not lead to an increase in the Authority's budget in respect of the Cabinet Members' Special Responsibility Allowance and Members' Allowances Scheme overall.

Currently, the seven Cabinet Members each receive an SRA of £8,320 pa. The Leader and Deputy Leader are cabinet portfolio holders and receive additional allowances of £5,876pa and £2,080pa respectively to reflect their leadership responsibilities. Including their Cabinet Members' SRA, the Leader and Deputy Leader are in the third and second quartile respectively of SRAs paid by Authorities in the South East of England.

The budget for the seven Cabinet Member posts ($£8,320 \times 7 = £58,240$) should be shared between the eight Cabinet Member posts – each receiving an SRA of £7,280pa ($£58,240 \div 8$). This would move them from above to below the median of allowances paid to Cabinet Members in the South East. It has been suggested that the total SRAs (including the Cabinet Member element) paid to the Leader and Deputy Leader should remain unchanged. If this were the case the remaining five Cabinet Members would see their SRAs reduced from £8,320 to £6,933 ($£8,320 \times 5 = £41,600 \div 6 = £6,933$).

The Panel **recommends** the SRAs paid to all seven members of the Cabinet should be reduced to fund the additional Cabinet post. The annual SRAs paid to Cabinet Members (including the Leader and Deputy Leader) be as follows:

Leader	£13,156 (£5,176 + £7,280)
Deputy Leader	£ 9,360 (£2,080 + £7,280)
Cabinet Members	£ 7,280.

If accepted these changes would come into effect on 20 May 2020

All other Allowances would remain unchanged.