

# SC/005/11

**Committee** The Essex County Council and Essex Fire Authority Joint Standards Committee

**Date** 20 July 2011

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## **Members Allowances Scheme – Implications for the Standards Committee**

### **1. Purpose of the Report**

To update the Committee on the arrangements contained in the report which was presented to the Full Council meeting on 12 July 2011.

**AN EXTRACT FROM THE COUNCIL ISSUES PRESENTED TO THE FULL  
COUNCIL MEETING ON 12 JULY 2011**

**9. Members' Annual Statement**

The Independent Review Panel on Members' Allowances recommended that Members should prepare a publicly available annual statement which highlights their achievements and activities throughout the year. The Panel proposed that these reports will also be submitted to the Standards Committee.

In exceptional circumstances, where a member was judged to be conspicuously failing to perform, the Independent Review Panel proposed that the Standards Committee may recommend the non-payment of allowances due. Reviewing the guidance on member allowances issued by the Department of Communities and Local Government confirms that payment may only be withheld if a Member is suspended or partially suspended so it is not possible to implement that part of the Panel's proposals.

The Standards Committee agreed that producing an Annual Statement would provide an opportunity to engage all elected members and promote best practice. It provided an opportunity to benefit from the experience of those members achieving well. The concept of members producing evidence of providing value for money was fully supported by the Committee. The Committee's proposal is to set up a sub-committee comprising three members (one independent member as Chairman and two councillors drawn only from those appointed to the Committee by the County Council to be agreed by the Chairman of the Committee) will monitor that a report has been produced by each member of the Council and produce an appropriate statement for inclusion in the Committee's Annual Report to Council, including deciding whether to name any member who has not complied.

A proposed format for an annual statement is attached at Annex "E".

## ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNCILLOR JOHN ALDRIDGE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
May 2010 – May 2011

Conservative Member for the  
Broomfield and Writtle Division

Term of Office 4 June 2009 – 2 May  
2013 (first elected 5 May 2005)



From 1 May 2010 to 30 April 2011 I have attended the following meetings:

- *Full Council 100% attendance*
- *Area Forum 70% attendance*
- *Children and Young People Policy and Scrutiny Committee (Chairman) 89% attendance*
- *Essex Police Authority 89% attendance*

I have represented the Council on the following other bodies:  
*Chelmsford Local Strategic Partnership*

From 1 May 2010 to 30 April 2011 I have attended the following training sessions, seminars, briefings and conferences to develop skills and gain knowledge that will help me serve the people of my division;

- *European Funding 28 March 2011*
- *Transforming Essex 1 April 2011*
- *Freedom of Information Requests 5 April 2011*

Any other comments:

Allowances received:

- *Basic: £11,500*
- *Special Responsibility: £21,400 as Chairman of the Scrutiny Board*
- *£604.41 claimed in expenses*

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