

CIVIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE26 November 2003
(6.00pm- 7.10pm)

PRESENT: Councillors C Rosenstiel (Chair), Boyce, Durrant, Hart, R Smith, Stebbings and Ward.

FOR INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL**03/CIV/58 AMENDMENTS TO THE MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME AND REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT PANEL**

See also adoption minute 03/CIV/57

Some members of the Committee unfortunately had not received the Panel's report before the meeting. The Committee therefore agreed to defer consideration of the Panel's recommendations on the allowances for 2004/05 to the next meeting of Civic Affairs Committee on 28 January 2004. However, there was some general discussion on the Panel's report and the following points were made.

Councillor Durrant requested that further information be provided for the next meeting on the extra workload on members of area committees as he felt the basic allowance should be increased above the Panel's recommendation to reflect this. Councillor Boyce suggested that the diaries cover a whole business cycle rather than a four week period. Councillor Hart queried whether the additional SRA for Planning Committee members was still appropriate now that Area Committees were dealing with local planning applications.

The Chair stated that although the matter would be debated on 28 January, he was minded to accept the Panel's recommendation of a 2.93% saving on the allowances budget. He would also wish to see that Vice Chairs SRAs were more consistent.