

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMISSION

13 NOVEMBER 2014 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Mr MR Lay - Chairman
Miss DM Taylor – Vice-Chairman

Mr PR Batty, Mr Bessant, Mr PAS Hall, Mr MS Hulbert, Mr DW Inman, Mr JS Moore,
Mr K Morrell and Mr K Nichols

262 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ladkin and Mayne.

265 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Batty asked for advice on whether members had a pecuniary interest in the item on Members' Allowances. In response it was noted that a decision was not being made at this meeting.

268 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

The Scrutiny Commission gave consideration to the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel who had recommended the same increase in allowances and decrease in mileage rate payable that had been rejected by Council the previous year. The Panel had felt that HBBC Councillors received far lower remuneration than other Councillors from all other neighbouring authorities and were now no longer receiving a level of remuneration which would be considered fair for the work undertaken and responsibilities held.

Members acknowledged the reasoning behind the recommendations of the Panel and reiterated that their responsibilities and powers had increased enormously, yet no increase in allowances had been agreed since 2005. In relation to the mileage, they felt that the rate currently paid was still appropriate and necessary and did not support the reduction in line with the HMRC rate.

With regard to future reviews of members' allowances, it was noted that the Independent Remuneration Panel would meet annually. Members asked that future assessments bring HBBC in line with other local authorities. It was moved by Councillor Batty, seconded by Councillor Nichols and

RECOMMENDED to Council –

- (i) The recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the basic allowance and special responsibility allowances be approved;
- (ii) The recommendation of the Panel in relation to the decrease in mileage allowance be rejected;
- (iii) The Panel be recommended to bring the HBBC members' allowances in line with other authorities in future reviews.