



## GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

14 November 2012

## REPORT

**Subject Heading:**

URGENT REQUEST FOR THE  
CONSIDERATION OF THE PROVISION  
OF AN SRA FOR THE CHAIRMAN OF  
THE ADJUDICATION & REVIEW  
COMMITTEE

**CMT Lead:**

Ian Burns

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**Policy context:**

Special Responsibility Allowances for  
Chairmen of committees of the Council

**Financial summary:**

There would be specific financial  
implications if an SRA were to be agreed  
and awarded

**The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council  
Objectives**

Ensuring a clean, safe and green borough	<input type="checkbox"/>
Championing education and learning for all	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing economic, social and cultural activity in thriving towns and villages	<input type="checkbox"/>
Valuing and enhancing the lives of our residents	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Delivering high customer satisfaction and a stable council tax	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SUMMARY**

At its meeting held on 6 November 2012, the Adjudication & Review Committee endorsed a request from a Member to ask the Chairman of the Governance Committee to accept, as an urgent item, a request from it to reconsider the deferral of a decision concerning the with-holding of an SRA from the Chairman of the Adjudication & Review Committee.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Committee consider the referral from the Adjudication & Review Committee

**REPORT DETAIL**

This matter, which was accepted by the Chairman of the Governance Committee as a late item is set out in the attached Minute of the Adjudication & Review Committee when it met on 6 November 2012 which is self-explanatory.

This Committee deferred making a decision on an SRA for the Chairman of the Adjudication & Review Committee because it was unclear how much additional work would be involved over and above the role when the Committee was a Sub-Committee. The position was to be reviewed in the New Year after several months of potential activity for the Committee and the Chairman.

**IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

**Financial implications and risks:**

There will be financial implications should the Committee agree to recommend to the Council that a Special Responsibility Allowance be reinstated. Currently there is no budget provision for it.

**Legal implications and risks:**

There are none directly associated with this report.

**Human Resources implications and risks:**

There are none associated with this report.

**Equalities implications and risks:**

There are none associated with this report.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Minute of the Adjudication & Review Committee

16 **URGENT ITEM: SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCE (ADJUDICATION & REVIEW CHAIRMAN)**

A Member asked leave of the Chairman to raise a matter of urgent concern in respect of the Administration's decision to defer making a decision on whether to grant an SRA to the Chairman of the re-formed Adjudication & Review Committee.

It was argued that the Council had always provided an SRA to those Members who had been elected to the chairmanship of committees as these were considered to be positions of responsibility. It was appreciated that when the Administration decided to change the status of the Adjudication & Review Committee (which was attracting an SRA at the time) and making it a sub-committee, the SRA could, with some justification, be removed. The concern was that when the sub-committee reverted to full committee status on 1 October, an SRA of some sort should have been granted as of that date in recognition of the fact that additional responsibility (the oversight of work previously dealt with by the old Standards Committee) had been added to the committee's business.

When the Governance Committee met in September, the question of the SRA was removed from the decision and deferred. Whilst this might have made sense at the time, it appeared that the continued delay was unreasonable and an insult to the current Chairman of the Committee. It was understood that the Administration was not even going to reconsider the matter until February or March 2013 and this was not acceptable.

The Committee was asked whether it would endorse a request for the matter to be raised at the forthcoming Governance Committee for it to consider the question of an SRA for the Chairman of the Adjudication & Review Committee as a matter of urgency and not leave it any longer.

Members of the Committee (with the exception of Councillor Frederick Thompson) endorsed this request, considering that the decision to with-hold an SRA from the chairman of a committee of the Council was wrong and that an SRA should be agreed and awarded as a matter of urgency.

The Committee therefore **endorsed** the request that the Chairman of the Governance Committee be asked to accept, as a matter of urgency, the Adjudication & Review Committee's request that the decision not to award the Chairman of the Adjudication & Review Committee and SRA (and to delay consideration of the matter any longer) was both unreasonable and contrary to the practice of the Council.

Councillor Frederick Thompson abstained from this decision (which was otherwise unanimous) and, in his capacity as Chairman of the Governance Committee, accepted the request for the matter to be considered as an urgent item at the next Governance Committee meeting.