



## **REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL**

**WEDNESDAY 8 APRIL 2009**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. Following the Borough Council election May 2007, there were two opposition groups both with nine members.
- 1.2. The Remuneration Panel met following the election to consider various issues one of which was the Special Responsibility Allowance paid to the Leaders of the main opposition groups on the Council.
- 1.3. At that time the Special Responsibility Allowance paid to the Leader of the main opposition group was £6,324 and the allowance paid to the Leader of the Third Group was £3,156.
- 1.4. The Panel recommended that the equality of numbers between the two main opposition groups be recognised by aggregating the two allowances and dividing this equally between the leaders of the second and third groups. This recommendation was accepted by the Council.

### **2. CONSIDERATIONS**

- 2.1. One of the opposition groups has now notified the Council that its membership has been reduced to eight members. The equality of numbers which was the basis of our previous recommendation therefore no longer exists.
- 2.2. It is normal for the Leader of the Second Group in a local authority to be recognised as the main opposition leader and for this to be reflected in the Special Responsibility Allowance allocated to that position.

- 2.3. The difference in numbers is clearly very small nevertheless the Panel consider it to be appropriate to recognise that position and therefore recommend that the previously existing position be restored.

### 3. **PROPOSAL**

- 3.1. It is proposed that the Special Responsibility Allowances paid to the Leaders of the Second and Third Opposition Group revert to the position as it was prior to the last Borough Council election.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the current Special Responsibility Allowances paid to the Leaders of the Second and Third Groups be aggregated and that sum be divided as to two thirds to the Leader of the Second Group and one third to the Leader of the Third Group