

**NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

**AUTHORITY MEETING – 18 JANUARY 2007**

**REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE SCHEME**

**Report by:** Jerry Giltrow (Chairman of Standards Committee)

**Summary:**

The Authority is requested to consider recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel appointed to review the current scheme of members' allowances – the recommendations were considered and supported by the Standards Committee at its meeting on 27 November 2006.

**Recommendations:**

- 1 That the changes to the Scheme of Allowances recommended in the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel and set out on page one of their report be approved.**
- 2 The Authority notes that the Standards Committee is, reflecting the Panels' suggestion, investigating a light weight system of accountability for members based around recording members' attendance at meetings and other events with a view to submitting proposals to the Authority for approval by April 2007.**
- 3 That the Authority take cognisance of the requirement to make the Panel's recommendations available for public inspection.**

**Resources:**

Financial implications arising from the proposed increase in allowances are set out in Section 2 of the covering report to the Standards Committee.

**Papers:**

Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003

NFNPA 5/05: Members' Allowances

NFNPA 110/06: Standards Committee (review of Members' Allowances)

NFNPA 148/07: Cover paper

Annex 1 – Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on members' allowances (NFNPA/SC/11/06: Annex 1).

Annex 2 – Covering report accompanying the report of the Panel and considered by the Standards Committee at its meeting on 27 November, 2006 (NFNPA/SC/11/06).

Annex 3 – Analysis of hours worked by members.

**Contact:**

David Stone

Tel: 01590 646645

Email: [david.stone@newforestnpa.gov.uk](mailto:david.stone@newforestnpa.gov.uk)

**NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

**AUTHORITY MEETING – 18 JANUARY 2007**

**REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE SCHEME**

**Report by:** Jerry Giltrow (Chairman of Standards Committee)

- 1.1 The Standards Committee, at its meeting on 27 November 2006, considered the report of an independent remuneration panel, the establishment of which was approved by the Authority at its meeting on 20 July 2006 (NFNPA 06) to review the current Scheme of Members' Allowances (**Annex 1**).
- 1.2 The Committee also considered a covering report (**Annex 2**) commenting on financial implications of the Panel's recommendations and members' activities on committees – which was shown to be in line with such activities in some other national park authorities.
- 1.3 The Standards Committee considered all the evidence in detail and obtained further clarification from the Chief Executive and Mr Ian Stirling (a member of the Panel who was present at the meeting). The Committee also discussed an assessment carried out of the members' responses to the questionnaire on allowances and the conclusions which had been reached (**Annex 3**).
- 1.4 Members took cognisance of, and supported, the principles underpinning the recommendations of the Panel as set out in Section 4 of the Panel's report and agreed that the report and recommendations were consistent with those principles.
- 1.5 Members noted that the Authority could exercise its right not to accept some or all of the Panel's recommendations.
- 1.6 Following clarification from the Monitoring Officer and in response to a point raised by the Panel, it was also confirmed that members could, by notice in writing to the Chief Executive, elect to forgo their entitlement or any part of their entitlement to allowances.
- 1.7 Accountability of members was also considered and Member Services were requested to submit a suitable system for recording members' attendance at meetings, workshops and other events for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee in February 2007. This information would be of assistance in a future review or highlight a possible need to review the allowances earlier than anticipated. At this stage, the Committee recommended that a system of accountability be explored by the Committee for subsequent referral to the Authority.

- 1.8 Although no specific reference had been made by the Panel, the Committee was advised that the Authority may wish to consider a process of phasing the recommended allowances in over a period of several years to ease the impact on the budget. If the Authority wishes to proceed with a phased increase, the table below illustrates the level of allowances in each year. The saving to the Authority would be around £9,000 over three years.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Annual Basic Allowance</b>
2007/2008	£1491
2008/2009	£1582
2009/2010	£1674

- 1.9 Following considerable debate, the Committee supported an increase in the basic allowance to £1674 per annum (currently £1400 per annum) and also accepted the recommendations put forward by the Panel in respect of the other allowances set out on page one of the Panel's report with an implementation date of 1 April 2007. New special responsibility allowances payable to the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Resources and Performance Committee, as recommended by the Panel, effective from 1 November 2006, were also supported.
- 1.10 The Committee considered and accepted the recommendation linking future increases in basic and special responsibility allowances to increases in the Retail Price Index as at the end of February each year for the permitted maximum of four years.
- 1.11 Members recorded thanks to the Panel in carrying out the review of the Scheme and also to officers of the Authority involved in advising and supporting the Panel, including the Chief Executive and Member Services Section.

**Recommendations:**

- 1 That the changes to the Scheme of Allowances recommended in the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel and set out on page one of their report be approved.**
- 2 The Authority notes that the Standards Committee is, reflecting the Panels' suggestion, investigating a light weight system of accountability for members based around recording members' attendance at meetings and other events with a view to submitting proposals to the Authority for approval by April 2007.**
- 3 That the Authority take cognisance of the requirement to make the Panel's recommendations available for public inspection.**



# **NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

## **INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL**

A review of allowances for members of the  
Authority:

Report of the Panel

November 2006

## Contents

	Section	Page number <i>(Authority Members note: for ease of reference, page numbers within this document are listed in bold italic type in the right margin)</i>
	Summary of recommendations	1
1	Introduction and background	2
2	Initial meeting – 9 November 2006	3
3	Second meeting – 17 November 2006	4
4	Principles	4
5	Recommendations	5
6	Acknowledgements	9
	Appendix 1: Terms of Reference of Independent Remuneration Panel	10
	Appendix 2: Questionnaire to members on the Scheme of Allowances	11
	Appendix 3: Hourly pay schedules for all employee jobs in the United Kingdom based on local employment rates	19
	Appendix 4: Formula for the calculation of Basic Allowance rate	21
	Appendix 5: Schedule of members' allowances paid by other national park authorities	22

# NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

## INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

### A REVIEW OF ALLOWANCES FOR MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY

#### REPORT OF THE PANEL - NOVEMBER 2006

#### Summary of recommendations:

<b>Basic Allowance</b>	£1674 per annum
<b>Special Responsibility Allowances:</b>	
<i>Unchanged</i>	
Chairman of the Authority	2 x basic allowance
Deputy Chairman of the Authority	1 x basic allowance
Chairman of the Planning Development Control Committee	1 x basic allowance
Deputy Chairman of the Planning Development Control Committee	0.5 x basic allowance
Chairman of the Standards Committee	0.25 x basic allowance
Chairman of the Tree Preservation Order Objection Order Panel/ Human Resources Case Review Panel/ other	No special responsibility allowance
<i>New</i>	
Chairman of the Resources and Performance Committee	1 x basic allowance
Deputy Chairman of the Resources and Performance Committee	0.5 x basic allowance
<b>Co-optee's Allowance</b>	No change to existing allowance, currently £130 pa
<b>Dependent Carer's Allowance</b>	No change
<b>Travel and subsistence allowances</b>	No change
<b>Retail Price Index as at the end of February in each year</b>	Applicable for four years, commencing April 2008
<b>New Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances</b>	Effective date - 1 April 2007
<b>Special Responsibility Allowance for Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Resources and Performance Committee</b>	Effective date – 1 November 2006

## 1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 The adoption of a scheme of members' allowances by the New Forest National Park Authority (the Authority) is governed by the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (the Regulations). Pursuant to the Regulations, the Authority is required to review its scheme of allowances annually before the beginning of each year.
- 1.2 The above Regulations came into force on 1 May 2003 and were intended to standardise and modernise the payment of allowances to members.
- 1.3 The Regulations require certain authorities (including national park authorities) to establish schemes for the payment of allowances to members. They also provided for the payment of Basic, Special Responsibility, travelling and subsistence and co-optees allowances.
- 1.4 The Regulations require local authorities to establish a scheme for the payment of a basic flat rate to all members. They also enable the Authority to pay Special Responsibility Allowances to certain members to reflect areas of significant responsibility and to pay travelling and subsistence allowances.
- 1.5 All the above payments must be determined locally. The current allowance scheme was adopted by the Authority at its first meeting in April 2005. Subsequently (in March 2006) the Authority amended its scheme to provide for the payment of Special Responsibility Allowances to the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the newly formed Planning Development Control Committee.
- 1.6 At its meeting on 20 July 2006, the New Forest National Park Authority resolved to establish an independent remuneration panel (the Panel) to review the Authority's scheme of members' allowances.
- 1.7 The Panel's terms of reference are attached as **Appendix 1** to this report.
- 1.8 The Panel is composed of the following members:
  - (i) Mrs Madeleine Sumsion, the former Regional Director, South East Employers Organisation. She has extensive knowledge of local government in the South East and experience of serving on and chairing Members' Allowances Review Panels throughout South East England. Madeleine is also experienced in job and role evaluations. She retired on 31 March 2006, but continues to work for South East Employers as an Associate Consultant;
  - (ii) Christine Ames, of the New Forest Tourism Association;
  - (iii) Albert Lampey, retired Secretary of the South West Regional Assembly; and
  - (iv) Ian Stirling, who provides a "citizen's perspective" to the Panel.

All the members of the Panel have prior experience of the review process.



## 2. Initial meeting – 9 November 2006

- 2.1 The first meeting of the Panel took place on 9 November 2006. The meeting was chaired by Madeleine Sumsion and attended by the four Panel members; Susie Bonfield of South East Employers attended as observer. The Authority's Chief Executive, Lindsay Cornish, Head of Member Services, David Stone, and Administrative Officer, Rosalind Alderman, were also present.
- 2.2 Background information had been supplied to the Panel members ahead of the first meeting. This comprised information on the following:
- the establishment of the Authority, its committee structures and working practices;
  - the existing scheme of members' allowances;
  - a comparison of allowances paid by other national park authorities in England and Wales;
  - a summary schedule of the responses received from a survey of the Authority's members to a questionnaire on allowances; and
  - a bound volume containing the panel recommendations made to each of the local authorities that appoint a member to the Authority.
- 2.3 The above information is filed with Member Services and is available for inspection on request.
- 2.4 In addition, a copy of the Authority's Corporate Plan was tabled at the meeting for members' information together with a schedule of meeting dates of the Authority and its committees for 2007. Panel reports in respect of the Peak District National Park Authority and the Broads Authority were also tabled.
- 2.5 The Authority's Chief Executive, Lindsay Cornish, briefed the Panel on the structure and purposes of the Authority, the current scheme of allowances and the limitations imposed on current and future budgets by the level of Defra's grant funding.
- 2.6 The Panel then discussed and evaluated the schedule of members' responses to the survey on allowances which had been undertaken by Member Services. Fifteen of the Authority's 22 members had replied to the questionnaire (attached as **Appendix 2** to this report).
- 2.7 Panel members had stated that they would find it helpful to interview members of the Authority on a sample basis to gain a better understanding of members' views on the scheme of allowances and any future allowances that may be paid. A series of members' interviews had accordingly been arranged for the first meeting of the Panel.
- 2.8 The Panel drafted a number of questions which were subsequently put to a cross section of members who were interviewed by the Panel over the course of the afternoon. Six members were interviewed, including the Chairman of the Authority, Committee Chairmen, members of the Planning Development Control and Resources and Performance Committees and the independent Chairman of the Standards Committee.

- 2.9 The members interviewed provided feedback to the Panel on:
- what they felt was the necessary time required in order to fulfil the basic role of National Park member, including committee membership and membership of outside bodies.
  - their views on the rate for the job;
  - the merits of applying the Public Service Discount to allowances;
  - identification of any problem areas with the present scheme;
  - their views on the hierarchy of committees in terms of workload and responsibility and consequently the level of Special Responsibility Allowance in each case; and
  - the duties of the specific roles; and
  - the travel and subsistence scheme.

### **3. Second meeting – 17 November 2006**

- 3.1 The second meeting of the Panel took place on 17 November 2006 and was attended by all Panel members. Susie Bonfield of South East Employers attended as observer and the Authority's Head of Member Services, David Stone, and Administrative Officer, Rosalind Alderman, were in attendance.
- 3.2 Following an initial discussion on the information obtained by the Panel and one further interview with an Authority member, the Panel members considered its recommendations in the light of the terms of reference agreed by the Authority. The recommendations are set out in Section 5 below and it was agreed that this report would be submitted for consideration by the Standards Committee at its meeting on 27 November 2006. This Committee would in turn forward the report and recommendations on to the Authority meeting on 18 January 2007. It was noted that a Panel member might be requested to present the Panel's proposals to the meeting of the Standards Committee and possibly the Authority meeting.
- 3.3 The Panel was mindful of the budget constraints faced by the Authority and whilst the recommendations represent a reasonable assessment of the rate for the job, based on the evidence presented, they acknowledge that the Authority may wish to exercise its right not to accept some or all of the Panel's recommendations, or to phase in the recommendations over 2 or 3 years.

### **4. Principles**

- 4.1 Before the Panel arrived at its recommendations, it decided that its deliberations should be underpinned by the following principles which take into account the statutory provisions:
- 4.1.1 That the recommended allowances should be of a sufficient level that would allow most people to consider becoming a Member of the New Forest National Park Authority without suffering undue

financial hardship while not being at such a level that allowances would become the primary reason for standing as a Member of the Authority.

- 4.1.2 That the allowances should be seen as a contribution and recognition of the time and skills of members, but not seen as equivalent to a formal job evaluation exercise and salaries.
- 4.1.3 The recommendations should be based on a logical and transparent construction and arrived at in a way that is simple to understand.
- 4.1.4 As far as possible, members should not be 'out of pocket' due to the fact that they are serving as members of the Authority.

## 5. Recommendations

### a) Basic Allowance

5.1 The Panel considered schedules tabled by the Chairman illustrating hourly pay schedules for all employee jobs in the United Kingdom and formula for the calculation of Basic Allowances (**Appendix 3 and 4 respectively**) and noted from the Annual Survey of Earnings and Hours (2006)<sup>1</sup> that the median for the New Forest area was £8.59 per hour determined in respect of local employment rates. The majority of those interviewed felt that using a local rate would be a fair basis for determining the basic allowance. Based on the evidence provided from the responses to members' questionnaires and members' interviews, the Panel agreed that Authority members needed to work a minimum of 7.5 hours per week in order to carry out their role as member of the Authority, inclusive of all involvement in committee work and other roles. The Panel recognised the very high level of public service demonstrated by the interviewees and are recommending a public service discount of 50% to this figure (3.75 hours per week) and multiplied the above hourly rate by the number of hours worked per year to arrive at a recommend basic allowance of £1674 per annum. (3.75 x 52 x £8.59 = £1675, rounded down to £1674 for 12 equal payments).

Allowance	Panel Recommendation
Basic Allowance	£1674 per annum

- 5.2 The Panel felt that there should be some form of accountability of members' activity. A number of those interviewed agreed with this, although not all. An electronic system, allied with mileage claims, could be helpful in this. The Panel is not suggesting a detailed method, rather a simple note of what has been achieved, meetings, attended, etc.
- 5.3 The Panel listened carefully to the presentations about the work of the Authority and the financial pressures. However, the Panel is an independent panel and it has endeavoured to establish a rate based on

<sup>1</sup> Published by the Office for National Statistics

the evidence of what is required and using a local rate to establish the worth of the Basic Allowance, and by extension, the Special Responsibility Allowances.

- 5.4 It is for the New Forest National Park Authority to accept the recommendations, or not, as the case may be.

**b) Special Responsibility Allowances**

- 5.5 The Panel discussed members' special responsibilities and felt that they had not heard any evidence which suggested a need to change the current formula for calculating these allowances. Whilst another approach could have been to calculate the Chairman's allowance based on the required time input to carry out the role, the panel noted that a number of authorities are using a ratio between the basic allowance and the Chairman. Whilst in some local authorities this ratio is 3:1, the panel felt that the current 2:1 was reasonable, given the specific role and remit of the National Park Authority.

- 5.6 In addition, the Panel received information about the role and function of the recently constituted Resources and Performance Committee and noted that there was no Special Responsibility Allowance for the Chairman and Vice Chairman of this committee. Based on the evidence received, the panel is now recommending that Special Responsibility Allowances be paid to the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the newly formed Resources and Performance Committee in line with that currently paid to the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Planning Development Control Committee.

- 5.7 The Panel noted that the Authority was still developing and were mindful of the fact that expanding advocacy, influencing and leadership functions may have an impact on the role of the Chairman of the Authority in the future and that it may be necessary to address this allowance in due course.

- 5.8 With regard to allowances for the Chairman of the Tree Protection Order Objection Panel and the Human Resources Case Review Panel, the Panel agreed that no case had been made for a Special Responsibility Allowance to be paid.

- 5.9 The Panel re-affirmed the existing criteria in the scheme that no member should receive more than one Special Responsibility Allowance as this practice is commonly followed in other local authorities. However, the Authority may wish to re-examine this in future depending on levels of responsibility and time expectations.

- 5.10 In line with the above, the Panel recommended that the following special responsibility allowances be paid in addition to the basic allowance:

<b>Role</b>	<b>Panel's Recommended Special Responsibility Allowance</b>
<b>Chairman of the Authority</b>	<b>2 x basic allowance</b>
<b>Deputy Chairman of the Authority</b>	<b>1 x basic allowance</b>
<b>Chairman of the Planning Development Control Committee</b>	<b>1 x basic allowance</b>
<b>Deputy Chairman of the Planning Development Control Committee</b>	<b>0.5 x basic allowance</b>
<b>Chairman of the Resources and Performance Committee</b>	<b>1 x basic allowance</b>
<b>Deputy Chairman of the Resources and Performance Committee</b>	<b>0.5 x basic allowance</b>
<b>Chairman of the Standards Committee</b>	<b>0.25 x basic allowance</b>
<b>Chairman of the Tree Preservation Order Objection Order Panel/ Human Resources Case Review Panel/ other</b>	<b>No special responsibility allowance</b>

5.11 During the review, the Panel's attention was drawn to the Sustainable Development Fund and the work of the Authority's representative as Chairman of that Panel. This was not something which had been identified by members in their response to the questionnaire and accordingly did not form part of the Panel's recommendations. The Authority may wish to reflect on the role and place of this panel and should it feel that at some time a Special Responsibility Allowance is required, the Panel would suggest that the Authority consider allocating a Special Responsibility Allowance of 0.5 of the basic allowance to this position. This conclusion was reached following information about the role and place of this panel and the input expected from the Chairman. It should be noted that if such an allowance were allocated to the current Chairman of the Sustainable Development Panel, he would be unable to collect it as he is already in receipt of another Special Responsibility Allowance as Deputy Chairman of the Authority and under the rules set out above no member may collect more than one Special Responsibility Allowance.

**c) Co-optee's Allowance**

5.12 The Panel was of the view that the existing allowance was suitable and there was no need to change the hourly amount currently paid.

<b>Allowance</b>	<b>Panel Recommendation</b>
<b>Co-optee's Allowance</b>	<b>No change to existing allowance, currently £130 per annum</b>

**d) Dependant Carer's Allowance**

5.13 The Panel recommended that the dependent carer's allowance should remain unchanged.

Allowance	Panel Recommendation
Dependent Carer's Allowance	No change to existing allowance

**e) Travel and subsistence**

5.14 The majority of members in responding to the questionnaire felt that the Inland Revenue rate for mileage and the current subsistence rates were reasonable. Consequently, the Panel recommended no change to this allowance.

Allowance	Panel Recommendation
Travel and subsistence allowances	No change to existing allowance

**f) Link in increases to annual index**

5.15 The Panel recommended that all Basic and Special Responsibility allowances be linked to increases in the Retail Price Index as at the end of February in each year, and that the application of this index be reviewed in four years from April 2007.

Panel's Recommended Index	Period
Retail Price Index as at the end of February in each year	Applicable for four years, commencing April 2008

**g) Effective date for implementation of revised allowance scheme**

5.16 The Panel recommends that the effective date for the implementation of the revised allowance scheme incorporating the above allowances be 1 April 2007 but that the Special Responsibility Allowances applicable to the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Resources and Performance Committee be effective from 1 November 2006.

Allowance	Effective Date
New Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances	1 April 2007
Special Responsibility Allowance for Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Resources and Performance Committee	1 November 2006

## **6. Acknowledgements**

The Panel would like to thank the Authority's Chief Executive, Lindsay Cornish, and David Stone and Rosalind Alderman of the Member Services section and others in the Authority's staff for their help. In addition, the Panel would like to thank the Authority's members for their time in completing the survey and attending interviews; their assistance was most helpful.

**Terms of reference of independent remuneration panel**

Having regard to any recommendations made by any independent remuneration panels established by district and county councils with appointees to the Authority, to produce a report making recommendations through the Standards Committee to the Authority:

- (a) as to the responsibilities or duties in respect of which the following should be available:
  - (i) special responsibility allowance;
  - (ii) travelling and subsistence allowance; and
  - (iii) co-optees' allowance;
- (b) as to the amount of such allowances and as to the amount of basic allowance;
- (c) as to whether dependants' carers' allowance should be payable to members of the Authority, and as to the amount of such an allowance;
- (d) as to whether, in the event that the scheme is amended at any time so as to affect an allowance payable for the year in which the amendment is made, payment of allowances may be backdated in accordance with regulation 10(6) of the Regulations; and
- (e) as to whether adjustments to the level of allowances may be determined according to an index and if so which index and how long that index should apply, subject to a maximum of four years, before its application is reviewed.





**REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES: YOUR COMMENTS**  
**(Please return to Member Services by 22 September 2006)**

Name:

1. Do you think the basic allowance payable to Authority members (currently £1,400 a year) is appropriate?

Yes:

No:

If you do not think so, please state why not:

2. Do you think the special responsibility allowances payable to the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Authority (currently £2,800 and £1,400 respectively per year), in addition to the basic allowance, are appropriate?

Chairman of Authority

Deputy Chairman of Authority

Yes:

Yes:

No:

No:

If you do not think so for either of the above, please state why not:

3. Do you think the special responsibility allowances payable to the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Planning Development Control Committee of the Authority (currently £1,400 and £700 respectively per year), in addition to the basic allowance, are appropriate?

Chairman of PDCC

Deputy Chairman of PDCC

Yes:

Yes:

No:

No:

If you do not think so for either of the above, please state why not:

4. Do you think the special responsibility allowance payable to the Chairman of the Standards Committee of the Authority (currently £350 per year), in addition to the basic allowance, is appropriate?

Yes:

No:

If you do not think so, please state why not:

--

5. What special responsibility allowances do you think the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the new Resources and Performance Committee should be paid? Please give your reasons:

Chairman	
Deputy Chairman	

6. Should the Chairman of the Tree Preservation Order Objection Panel (a panel of the Planning Development Control Committee) and the Human Resources Case Review Panel (a panel of the Resources and Performance Committee) receive a special responsibility allowance?

TPO Objection Order Panel	Human Resources Case Review Panel
Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
No: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>

If so, please state how much:

Chairman TPO Objection Panel	
Chairman Human Resources Case Review Panel	

7. Do you think the co-optees' allowance (currently £130 per year) is appropriate?

Yes:

No:

If you do not think so, please state why not:

8. Do you think the dependant carer's allowance (currently actual expenditure subject to a maximum equivalent to the National Minimum wage plus 20% and a maximum of eight hours per week) is appropriate?

Yes:

No:

If you do not think so, please state why not:

9. Do you think any other role warrants a special responsibility allowance?

Yes:

No:

If so, please state which role(s):

10. From July 2006, Authority meetings will take place on alternate months. How do you think this will affect your time commitment to the Authority?

11. Do you feel that some form of accountability for members would be appropriate? (For example, members to complete a quarterly report on work undertaken)

Yes:

No:

If so, please give suggestions; if not, please explain why not:

12. Please give details below in each category of the **average** number of **hours per month** that you spend on Authority work or commitments (and in the case of (c) below, the **average** number of **instances per month**):

	<b>Commitment</b>	<b>Average per month</b>
(a)	Time spent at Authority, committee and working group meetings, including travelling time	Hours
(b)	Reading reports and background papers prior to attending meeting	Hours
(c)	Number of "outside body" attendances (includes giving talks to organisations on Authority activities and as the Authority's representative on an outside organisation)	
(d)	Time spent attending "outside bodies"	Hours
(e)	Time spent on any "special responsibility" duties (such as extra work or commitments in capacity as a Chairman or Deputy Chairman)	Hours
(f)	Time spent on site attendances for Planning Development Control Committee applications and Tree Preservation Order Objection Panel matters	Hours
(g)	Time spent on other Authority business (please specify, e.g. training, members' briefings, site visits, etc.)	Hours

13. Please can you indicate your involvement on committees of the Authority in the table below:

<b>Name of Committee</b>	<b>Chairman</b> (please tick as appropriate)	<b>Deputy Chairman</b> (please tick as appropriate)	<b>Member</b> (please tick as appropriate)

14. Do you think the mileage rates for approved journeys, being the Inland Revenue's approved annual mileage payments (currently 40p per mile for motor vehicles, 25p per mile for motor cycles and 20p per mile for bicycles) are appropriate?

Yes:  No:

If you do not think so, please state why not:

15. Do you think the subsistence allowances set out in the table below are appropriate?

<b>Event</b>	<b>Max. allowance</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Breakfast	£5.20	Claimable if away from normal place of residence for more than 4 hours before 11.00 am.
Lunch	£7.20	Claimable if away from normal place of residence for more than 4 hours including the lunch time period of 11.30 am and 2.30 pm.
Tea	£2.85	Claimable if away from normal place of residence for more than 4 hours including the period 3 pm to 6 pm. Cannot be claimed if evening meal allowance is also claimed.
Dinner	£9.00	Claimable if away from the normal place of residence more than 4 hours, ending after 7 pm. Cannot be claimed if tea is also claimed.
Overnight	£95.00	Claimable if away overnight from normal place of residence. Prior approval from the Authority is required for accommodation in excess of the maximum.
Incidental Expenses	£4.20 per night £16.80 per week	Claimable for residential courses and conferences.

Yes:

No:

If you do not think so, please state why not:

16. Once a new scheme of members' allowances has been agreed by the Authority, the Regulations provide for future annual increases to the allowances to be linked to an index for a maximum period of four years. Do you support this approach?

Yes:

No:

If you do not think so, please state why not:

17. Please give any other comments in the box below:

*For members' guidance – further details relevant to the scheme of members' allowances can be found in section 4 of the Authority document file.*



Table 7.5a Hourly pay - Excluding overtime (£) - For all employee jobs<sup>2</sup>: United Kingdom, 2006

Description	Code	Number of jobs <sup>1</sup> (thousand)	Annual percentage change	Annual percentage change	Percentiles											
					Mean	10	20	25	30	40	60	70	75	80	90	
United Kingdom		23,715	9.88	4.1	13.07	4.1	5.54	6.43	6.94	7.44	8.53	11.62	13.88	15.30	16.93	22.30
Great Britain		23,014	9.90	4.2	13.11	4.1	5.55	6.45	6.95	7.46	8.55	11.65	13.92	15.33	16.96	22.38
England and Wales		20,901	9.95	4.1	13.20	4.1	5.56	6.47	6.97	7.48	8.58	11.70	13.97	15.37	17.03	22.58
England		19,885	10.00	4.3	13.29	4.1	5.56	6.48	6.99	7.50	8.63	11.77	14.07	15.47	17.16	22.75
South East		3,239	10.39	3.9	13.77	5.3	5.75	6.71	7.24	7.78	8.97	12.27	14.64	15.16	16.00	23.75
Brecknell Forest UA	101	59	13.26	12.6	17.54	5.7	6.14	7.87	8.55	9.30	11.82	16.04	18.83	23.73	22.70	x
Brighton and Hove UA	107	91	9.82	2.7	12.12	4.0	5.90	6.44	6.89	7.31	8.57	11.27	13.41	14.57	16.88	21.98
Isle of Wight UA	114	46	8.00	-2.5	10.01	-3.0	5.39	5.91	6.22	6.50	7.80	9.25	11.39	12.91	13.61	x
Medway UA	115	76	9.42	2.1	11.76	4.2	5.37	6.07	6.70	7.15	8.12	10.72	12.86	13.87	15.24	x
Milton Keynes UA	109	129	10.78	7.6	14.22	5.6	5.86	7.25	7.70	8.21	9.44	12.81	15.35	15.80	19.19	24.86
Portsmouth UA	111	92	10.40	11.8	14.14	18.0	5.98	7.03	7.47	8.04	9.21	12.27	14.80	15.09	17.36	x
Reading UA	103	86	12.05	2.3	15.23	1.3	6.16	7.82	8.25	8.94	10.30	13.74	15.98	17.52	19.09	x
Slough UA	104	58	12.24	7.4	15.12	-2.7	6.14	7.42	8.02	8.92	10.30	13.64	16.56	18.60	20.66	x
Southampton UA	112	101	9.97	4.4	13.72	6.2	5.67	6.75	7.26	7.86	8.78	12.01	14.17	15.15	17.25	22.48
West Berkshire UA	102	75	11.76	6.5	15.17	7.0	6.12	7.38	8.01	8.57	9.85	14.25	17.61	18.93	20.76	x
Windsor and Maidenhead UA	105	63	12.28	0.8	18.99	9.9	6.06	7.29	7.99	8.91	10.24	15.44	18.41	19.82	23.78	x
Wokingham UA	106	54	12.75	9.7	18.78	12.5	6.47	7.37	8.19	9.04	10.89	15.93	19.77	22.98	25.15	x
Buckinghamshire	110	174	11.14	8.8	14.32	5.2	6.00	7.23	7.77	8.16	9.39	12.99	15.32	15.83	18.40	23.72
Aylesbury Vale	259	62	10.76	7.9	13.79	10.1	5.97	7.16	7.68	7.97	9.37	12.59	15.03	16.11	17.88	x
Chiltern	260	25	12.54	22.4	14.13	7.8	6.12	7.44	8.04	8.36	9.36	13.78	15.52	16.90	19.19	x
South Bucks	262	30	12.00	11.5	15.87	-5.2	6.92	8.07	8.74	9.34	10.79	13.50	16.20	17.43	x	x
Wycombe	263	67	10.50	0.7	14.45	4.3	5.78	6.85	7.51	8.02	9.17	12.59	15.16	15.86	18.71	x
East Sussex	108	141	9.24	8.3	11.80	9.5	5.50	6.25	6.80	7.12	8.13	10.65	12.49	13.32	15.34	19.36
Eastbourne	331	33	9.49	7.7	11.93	6.1	5.48	6.36	6.52	6.86	8.15	11.20	13.24	15.00	16.40	x
Hastings	332	30	8.14	-4.5	10.40	3.8	5.30	5.98	6.26	6.56	7.45	9.52	10.67	11.80	13.26	x
Lewes	334	29	10.24	3.0	12.43	8.3	5.94	6.99	7.43	8.12	8.97	11.43	13.29	15.23	17.06	x
Rother	335	18	8.90	18.7	11.10	10.8	5.42	5.89	6.06	6.26	7.34	10.30	12.26	13.08	x	x
Wealden	336	31	9.23	13.5	11.87	19.0	5.42	6.30	6.70	7.50	8.35	10.60	12.13	12.81	13.97	x
Hampshire	113	524	10.17	5.0	13.45	5.5	5.75	6.86	7.16	7.88	8.74	11.97	14.31	15.83	17.86	23.33
Basingstoke and Deane	357	81	11.44	0.3	14.84	4.3	6.21	7.50	8.19	8.78	10.16	13.51	15.96	17.68	19.62	x
East Hampshire	356	31	9.60	2.9	12.42	1.5	5.67	6.77	7.04	7.50	8.85	11.23	13.25	14.60	16.12	x
Eastleigh	359	71	9.20	-1.6	12.07	4.8	5.56	6.21	6.59	7.08	8.00	10.63	12.82	14.06	15.65	x
Fareham	360	40	8.84	-4.4	11.88	-1.0	5.33	6.10	6.50	6.86	7.75	10.08	11.67	13.80	16.05	x
Gosport	361	22	9.89	6.9	10.93	2.4	5.43	6.37	6.91	7.85	8.37	11.42	12.61	13.30	14.59	x
Hart	362	32	12.04	19.9	16.07	8.9	5.63	6.75	7.48	8.04	9.77	14.27	17.52	19.64	21.86	x
Havant	363	36	9.10	3.3	12.30	3.8	5.58	6.29	6.62	7.04	7.67	10.55	13.85	15.92	17.03	x
New Forest	364	59	8.59	3.0	11.54	4.3	5.68	6.27	6.68	7.08	7.67	9.60	11.85	13.16	14.62	x
Rushmoor	366	47	13.60	14.3	17.58	10.1	6.27	7.47	8.91	9.85	11.66	16.19	19.14	20.90	22.50	x
Test Valley	368	52	9.84	-1.6	12.06	-1.4	5.75	6.83	7.32	7.81	8.74	11.52	12.99	14.13	15.47	x
Winchester	369	52	10.87	15.5	14.61	12.1	5.91	7.06	7.60	7.97	9.09	12.50	14.91	17.12	19.89	x
Kent	116	479	9.25	1.6	12.21	3.8	5.50	6.30	6.67	7.14	8.16	10.75	12.83	14.22	15.86	20.38
Ashford	400	33	8.78	-2.0	10.92	-3.7	5.49	6.25	6.73	7.00	7.74	10.10	11.93	12.82	14.11	x
Canterbury	401	58	8.71	-3.7	11.24	-2.3	5.36	5.99	6.19	6.62	7.55	10.52	12.25	13.09	14.16	x
Dartford	402	53	10.61	12.7	13.83	10.1	5.56	6.42	6.94	7.93	9.23	12.49	14.93	15.07	17.93	x
Dover	403	35	10.24	4.4	13.52	0.1	5.71	7.00	7.43	7.72	8.90	12.34	14.30	15.92	17.96	x
Gravesham	405	24	8.72	-8.1	11.54	3.8	5.48	5.88	6.10	6.65	7.81	10.55	12.34	14.07	15.34	x
Maidstone	406	52	8.84	-0.6	11.63	7.2	5.36	6.07	6.49	6.88	7.90	10.05	12.17	13.66	15.33	x
Sevenoaks	408	36	9.96	7.9	13.16	4.1	5.78	6.61	7.02	7.42	8.45	12.08	14.36	15.82	18.25	x
Shepway	409	29	8.83	4.7	11.23	2.9	5.56	6.45	6.73	7.00	7.67	9.48	11.33	12.06	x	x
Swale	410	42	8.97	1.6	11.20	3.6	5.50	5.89	6.36	6.70	7.75	10.00	11.80	13.68	15.27	x
Thanet	411	31	8.87	10.8	12.81	5.9	5.31	6.05	6.32	6.50	7.44	9.81	11.22	11.99	13.80	x
Tonbridge and Malling	412	46	9.16	-3.5	12.23	4.2	5.74	6.61	7.05	7.38	8.30	10.23	12.16	13.15	15.26	x
Tunbridge Wells	413	41	10.31	7.7	13.09	2.8	5.64	6.72	7.21	7.71	8.65	11.78	14.27	16.08	17.74	x
Oxfordshire	117	251	11.00	2.7	13.51	4.8	6.00	7.01	7.67	8.36	9.56	12.77	14.88	15.90	17.47	22.73

Key  
 CV <= 5%  
 CV > 5% and <= 10%  
 CV > 10% and <= 20%

Table 7.6a Hourly pay - Excluding overtime (£) - For all employee jobs<sup>a</sup>: United Kingdom, 2006

Description	Code	Number of jobs <sup>b</sup> (thousand)	Median	Annual percentage change	Mean	Annual percentage change	Percentiles									
							10	20	25	30	40	60	70	75	80	90
Cherwell	480	49	9.56	5.8	12.17	4.9	5.85	6.76	7.21	7.66	8.69	11.09	12.89	14.71	15.67	x
Oxford	481	88	11.64	-3.1	14.23	1.9	6.03	7.03	7.73	8.51	9.98	13.38	15.33	16.43	18.23	x
South Oxfordshire	482	37	10.73	1.7	13.25	6.8	6.17	7.04	7.49	8.19	9.23	12.22	14.83	15.79	17.05	y
Vale of White Horse	483	52	12.08	3.1	14.39	8.1	5.75	7.45	8.38	9.18	10.49	13.99	16.15	17.31	19.62	x
West Oxfordshire	484	24	10.02	-0.4	12.23	1.8	6.00	7.18	7.82	8.01	8.96	11.24	13.35	14.55	15.09	x
Surrey	118	408	11.85	3.4	15.84	3.3	6.06	7.25	7.92	8.52	10.01	13.93	16.74	18.41	20.68	27.64
Elmbridge	512	38	12.21	-1.4	15.10	-4.8	6.23	7.56	8.27	9.13	10.67	14.37	16.48	18.16	19.56	x
Epsom and Ewell	513	24	11.47	10.7	13.49	-2.2	6.44	7.33	7.72	8.41	9.96	13.12	14.74	15.29	16.39	x
Guildford	514	55	11.81	0.2	15.52	5.4	6.37	7.61	8.18	8.92	10.26	13.52	16.92	18.20	20.17	x
Mole Valley	515	40	12.32	9.0	18.29	6.4	6.72	7.29	7.90	8.41	9.86	15.14	20.00	21.96	24.86	x
Reigate and Banstead	516	48	11.75	1.1	15.69	9.0	5.82	7.27	8.28	8.80	10.15	13.69	16.23	18.66	21.17	x
Runnymede	517	37	13.11	2.4	17.76	4.1	5.95	7.64	8.26	9.47	11.39	15.92	17.95	20.67	23.44	x
Spelthorne	518	28	12.84	0.1	17.76	4.8	5.70	7.14	8.04	9.85	11.23	15.61	18.81	21.03	x	x
Surrey Heath	519	40	10.70	-1.2	14.95	0.3	5.97	6.83	7.23	7.59	8.00	12.49	15.30	17.74	19.66	x
Tandridge	520	21	9.60	9.2	12.51	6.1	5.83	6.46	7.00	7.37	8.27	11.08	12.57	x	x	x
Waverley	521	36	10.81	6.9	14.00	0.6	6.00	6.94	7.85	8.22	9.52	13.34	15.66	16.77	18.03	x
Woking	522	40	12.32	6.9	17.14	8.6	6.35	7.85	8.15	9.01	10.65	13.69	17.05	18.84	20.26	x
West Sussex	119	320	9.38	0.8	12.45	3.6	5.51	6.33	6.73	7.25	8.22	11.21	13.41	15.12	16.68	21.68
Adur	528	15	8.61	-3.8	11.31	-1.5	5.46	6.01	6.23	6.45	7.82	9.85	12.92	14.56	x	x
Arun	529	30	8.25	10.0	10.23	8.2	5.28	6.10	6.23	6.48	7.36	9.87	10.02	11.17	12.49	x
Chichester	530	53	8.75	4.0	12.18	13.1	5.47	6.12	6.37	6.70	7.66	10.91	14.74	16.38	18.09	22.09
Crawley	531	74	10.48	-3.9	13.71	-2.3	5.97	7.02	7.44	7.83	8.05	12.03	14.03	15.40	17.30	x
Horsham	532	37	10.19	2.2	13.11	6.8	6.00	6.85	7.36	7.82	8.89	12.29	14.40	15.69	17.43	x
Mid Sussex	533	43	9.72	3.8	12.51	2.4	5.48	6.43	6.99	7.40	8.62	11.03	13.31	14.81	16.69	x
Worthing	534	40	9.05	-4.7	11.73	2.4	5.56	6.37	6.60	7.14	8.01	11.15	13.01	14.22	15.05	x

a Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.

b Figures for Number of Jobs are for indicative purposes only and should not be considered an accurate estimate of employee job counts.

KEY - The colour coding indicates the quality of each estimate: jobs, median, mean and percentiles but not the annual percentage change.

The quality of an estimate is measured by its coefficient of variation (CV), which is the ratio of the standard error of an estimate to the estimate.

Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

### New Forest National Park Authority – sample basic rates

Average hours required for carrying out the role of members, including serving on either of the main committees

Per week	Public service discount	Remunerated hours	Hourly rate Median NF Place of work £	Calculation	Annual basic allowance £
12	50%	6 per week	8.59	$6 \times 52 \times 8.59$	2,680
12	40%	7.2	8.59	$7.2 \times 52 \times 8.59$	3,216
9	50%	4.5	8.59	$4.5 \times 52 \times 8.59$	2,010
9	40%	5.4	8.59	$5.4 \times 52 \times 8.59$	2,412
8	50%	4 per week	8.59	$4 \times 52 \times 8.59$	1,787
8	40%	4.8	8.59	$4.8 \times 52 \times 8.59$	2,144

## Members' Allowances 2006/07

	Broads £	Brecon Beacons £	Dartmoor £	Exmoor £	Lake District £	Loch Lomond & Trossachs	Northum- berland £	N York Moors £	Peak District £	Pembroke- shire Coast £	Snowdonia £	Yorkshire Dales £
<b>Basic Allowance</b>	400	12 <sup>(2)</sup>	1,045	1,824	3,000	6,718.32	1,425.48	2,014	1,596	2,200	2,950	2,646
<b>Responsibility Allowances</b>												
Chairman	1,666	5,000	2,613	7,296	6,000	-	5,701.92	4,028	4,788	3,150	3,090	5,292
Vice-Chairman	833	2,500	577	5,472	4,500	-	3,920.07	1,510	2,394	1,386	1,360	1,323
Second Vice-Chairman	-	-	-	3,648	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Planning Committee Chairman	833	2,050	N/A	5,472	N/A	-	N/A	2,014	2,394	2,100	2,060	1,987
Planning Committee Vice- Chairman	250	1,353	N/A	1,824	N/A	-	N/A	-	1,596	1,386	1,360	1,060
Standards Committee Chairman	250	-	-	456	-	-	N/A	-	798	-	-	-
Resources Committee Chairman	-	-	-	3,648	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Resources Committee Vice-Chairman	-	-	-	1,824	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Consultative Forum	-	-	-	456	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Navigation Committee Chairman	833	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Navigation Committee Vice-Chairman	250	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Services Committee Chairman	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,596	-	-	-
Services Committee Vice- Chairman	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	798	-	-	-
Performance Review Committee Chairman	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	693	-	-
Performance Review Committee Vice-Chairman	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	456.75	-	-
Review Panel Chairman	-	-	-	-	-	-	475.16	-	-	-	-	-
Audit and Performance Committee Chairman	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,596	-	-	-
Audit and Performance Committee Vice-Chairman	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	798	-	-	-
Personnel Committee Chairman	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	693	-	-
Personnel Committee Vice-Chairman	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	456.75	-	-
PMM Committee												
Lead Members	250 <sup>(4)</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	1,425.48	-	798	-	-	-
<b>Co-opted Member Allowance</b> <sup>(3)</sup>	200	-	-	121	300	-	264.97	180	531	-	-	141

(1) Welsh national park authorities are able to pay an attendance allowance as well as or instead of other allowances.

(2) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority has opted to pay an attendance allowance rather than a basic allowance.

(3) In national park authorities this will apply to independent Standards Committee members. The Broads Authority also appoints co-opted members to the Navigation Committee

(4) Also payable to planning committee members

**NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY  
STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
MEETING: 27 November 2006**

**REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME**

**Report by:** David Stone, Head of Member Services and Rosalind Alderman, Administrative Officer

**Summary:** The adoption of a scheme of members' allowances by the Authority is governed by the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (the Regulations). Pursuant to the Regulations, the Authority is required to review its scheme of allowances annually before the beginning of each year. On 20 July 2006 the Authority resolved to establish such a panel to review the scheme. A panel was established by the Authority's Chief Executive and met on 9 and 17 November 2006. The panel's recommendations are attached as **Annex 1** to the report.

**Recommendation:**

- (a) That the Committee consider the report of the independent remuneration panel on a revised scheme of members' allowances and make recommendations accordingly.**
- (b) That the Authority be advised of the need to make the panel's recommendations available for inspection.**

**Background Papers:**

Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003

**Resources:**

Financial implications arising from the proposed increase in allowances are set out in Section 2 of this report.

**Papers:**

NFNPA/SC11/06

NFNPA/SC11/06: Annex 1 – Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on members allowances



**NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY  
STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
MEETING: 27 November 2006**

**REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME**

Report by David Stone, Head of Member Services and Rosalind Alderman, Administrative Officer

**1 Introduction**

- 1.1 The adoption of a scheme of members' allowances by the Authority is governed by the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (the Regulations). Pursuant to the Regulations, the Authority is required to review its scheme of allowances annually before the beginning of each year.
- 1.2 Although no obligation existed for the Authority, as a national park authority, to obtain advice from an independent remuneration panel on its scheme of members' allowances, it was felt that this would be best practice and on 20 July 2006 the Authority resolved to establish such a panel to review the scheme. A panel was established by the Authority's Chief Executive and met on 9 and 17 November 2006.
- 1.3 The panel's report is attached as **Annex 1**.
- 1.4 Key aspects of the panel's recommendations are:
  - the basic allowance should increase from £1,400 to £1,674 per annum;
  - special responsibility allowances should be paid to the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Resources and Performance Committee (of 1 x and 0.5 x basic allowance, respectively);
  - no other changes should be made to other categories of allowances, such as special responsibility allowances (although since special responsibility allowances are calculated using a multiplier of the basic allowance, the proposed increase in basic allowance would have financial implications for the amount of special responsibility allowances payable) or travel and subsistence;
  - all allowances should be linked to increases in the Retail Price Index each year, and the application of the Index should be reviewed in April 2011; and
  - there should be some form of accountability of members' activity.

## 2 Implications of proposed changes to the scheme

- 2.1 The panel's recommendation to increase the basic allowance is explained in full in paragraphs 5.1 – 5.3 of its report. In summary, the panel's view was the members "needed to work a minimum of 7.5 hours per week in order to carry out the role of member of the Authority, inclusive of all involvement in committee work and other roles". A "public discount rate" of 50 percent was then applied to a New Forest median hourly pay rate of £8.59.
- 2.2 If the Authority were to accept the panel's recommendations in full, the total annual cost of members' allowances (excluding travel and subsistence) would be increased from the current cost by £9,840.50 in the first year (from £37,450 to £47,290.50 in 2007/08, £48,472.76 in 2008/09 and £49,684.58 in 2009/10 allowing for inflation at 2.5 percent per year). A breakdown of the financial implications resulting from payment of the revised allowances (excluding travel and subsistence) would be as set out in the table below:

Allowance	Payable under current scheme (£)	Payable in 2007/08 if panel's recommendations adopted (£)
Basic allowance x 22 members	30,800	36,828
Chairman of Authority at 2 x basic	2,800	3,348
Deputy Chairman of Authority at 1 x basic	1,400	1,674
Chairman of PDCC Authority at 1 x basic	1,400	1,674
Deputy Chairman of PDCC Authority at 0.5 x basic	700	837
Chairman of R and P Committee	n/a	1,674
Deputy Chairman of R and P Committee	n/a	837
Chairman of Standards Committee at 0.25 x basic	350	418.50
Chairman of TPO/ HR / other panel	n/a	0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>37,450</b>	<b>47,290.50</b>

- 2.3 The Authority's projected budget for the financial year 2007/08 is approximately £3.8 million, depending upon the amount of the grant received from Defra, but could reduce to £3.5 million. Future levels of grant are not yet known but no significant increase is expected. The grant contains no area cost adjustment for the higher costs of operating in the south east.
- 2.4 If members' allowances (excluding subsistence and travel) are not changed in 2007/08, the cost would amount to 0.99 percent of the Authority's projected total budget. Adopting a new scheme in line with the panel's recommendations would increase expenditure to 1.24 percent of total budget. This compares with expenditure in some other national parks as follows:

National Park Authority	Percentage of budget spent on members' allowances
Dartmoor	0.7
Northumberland	1



North York Moors	0.8
Peak District	1.02
Pembrokeshire Coast	0.87
Yorkshire Dales	0.85

and on this sample, would put the New Forest at the top of the league in terms of the proportion of its budget spent on members' allowances, while having the smallest budget.

### 3 Members' committee activity

- 3.1 Most members of the Authority serve on one of the two principal committees, i.e. Planning Development Control or Resources and Performance. Two members are on both of these committees, and one member without other special responsibilities is on neither committee.
- 3.2 This is fairly consistent with a sample of other national parks which shows that it is usual for all members of an authority to be on at least one major committee. All national parks appear, therefore, to assume some level of committee involvement in the basic allowance.

Authority	Make-up of Committees
Dartmoor	All members serve on the Development Control Committee and six members serve on the Audit and Governance Committee.
Exmoor	All members except one are on the Planning Committee.
North York Moors	All members are on the Planning Committee, at least one other Committee and a Parish Council Liaison Forum.
Peak District	Peak District has the following committees: Planning, Services, Audit and Performance. The Authority Chairman and Deputy Chairman sit on all three. Each Committee Chairman sits on the other two committees.  The rest of the members sit on either the Planning Committee only, <u>or</u> both the Services Committee <u>and</u> the Audit and Performance Committee.

Yorkshire Dales	Half of members are on the Planning Committee. All members are on <u>either</u> the Finance and Resources <u>or</u> the Audit and Review Committee.
-----------------	---

- 3.4 The proposed revised allowances appear to be in line with amounts paid by other national park authorities – see **Appendix 5** of the panel’s report.

#### **4 Analysis by Member Services of hours worked by members**

- 4.1 Member Services has carried out a detailed analysis of mean and median hours worked per week per member, using the 16 members’ responses to the questionnaire referred to in the report of the independent remuneration panel. The results are as follows:

- Two members work less than 3 hours per week on Authority business.
- Seven members estimate that they spend approximately 3-6+ hours per week on Authority work.
- Three members work in excess of 6 hours per week, ranging from approximately 10 to 16 hours per week.
- Those in receipt of a special responsibility allowance generally match or exceed the higher figures.

- 4.2 Six of the responses indicated satisfaction with the current basic allowance, two had no view and eight suggested it was insufficient.

- 4.3 These figures compare with the 7.5 hours the panel considers members need to work. The Standards Committee will wish to consider the background carefully in reaching a view on the recommendations of the independent remuneration panel.

#### **5 Options**

- 5.1 In considering the Panel’s report and its recommendations to the Authority the Standards Committee will wish to consider each of the Panel’s recommendations listed on page 1 of **Annex 1** and whether to:

- a) accept
- b) not accept
- c) suggest a modification
- d) identify any omissions, or follow-up with additional information needs.

## **6 Publication of independent remuneration panel's recommendations**

- 6.1 Under the Regulations, once an authority receives a report from an independent panel or reviews its scheme by other means it must place copies of the recommendations at its offices for inspection by the public, publish a notice in local newspapers, and supply copies to the public on request.

## **7 Recommendation**

- (a) That the Committee consider the report of the independent remuneration panel on a revised scheme of members' allowances and make recommendations accordingly.**
- (b) That the Authority be advised of the need to make the panel's recommendations available for inspection.**

## Number of Hours worked by Members

### Section A:

Members in receipt of Special Responsibility Allowance

Number of hours worked (per month)							
Time spent at meetings, including travel	Reading	Attending outside bodies	Special Responsibility duties	Site attendances	Other (e.g. training)	Total	Total (Per week)*
4.00	3.00	1.00	2.00	0.00	2.00	12.00	2.79
16.00	20.00	6.00	10.00	4.00	3.00	59.00	13.72
10.00	10.00	15.00	50.00	0.00	15.00	100.00	23.26
<b>MEAN:</b>						<b>57.00</b>	<b>13.26</b>

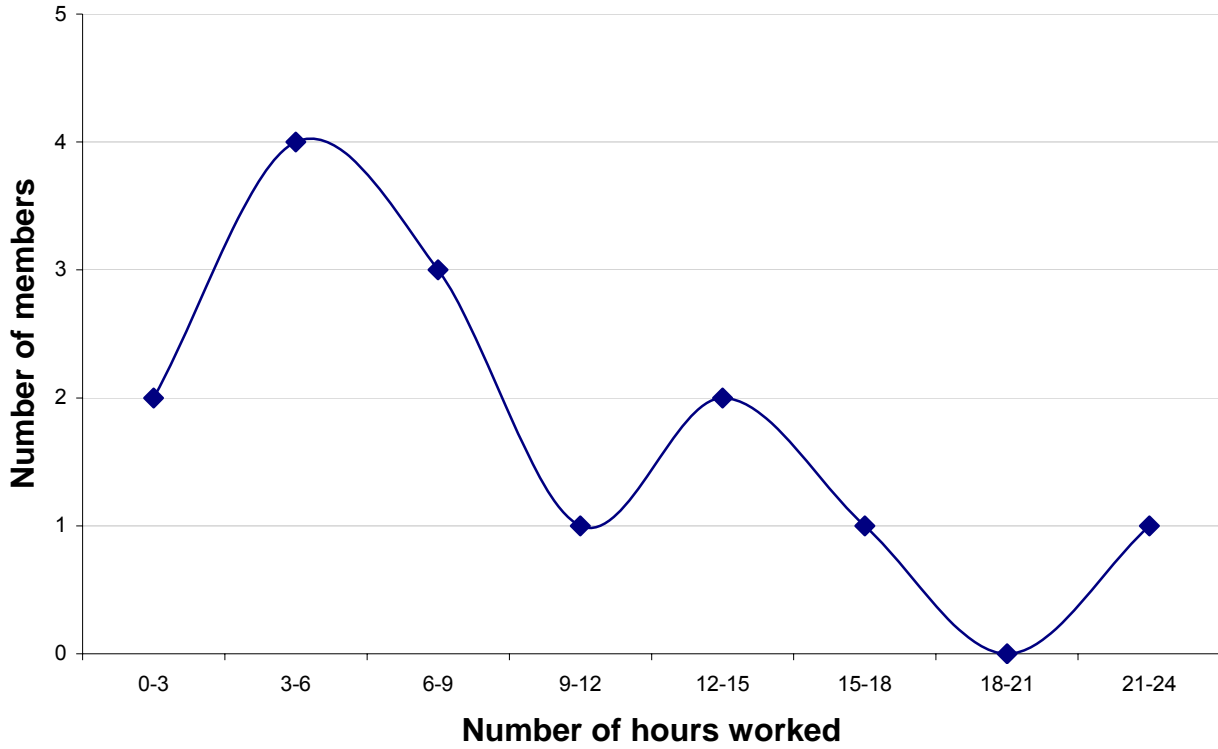
### Section B:

Members NOT in receipt of Special Responsibility Allowance

Number of hours worked (per month)							
Time spent at meetings, including travel	Reading	Attending outside bodies	Special Responsibility duties	Site attendances	Other (e.g. training)	Total	Total (per week)*
4.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.00	1.86
8.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.16	14.16	3.29
13.50	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17.50	4.07
14.00	4.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	23.00	5.35
11.00	13.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.00	5.58
20.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	26.00	6.05
12.00	10.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	4.00	26.50	6.16
10.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	2.00	27.00	6.28
						43.00	10.00
14.50	15.00	10.00	0.50	0.50	13.50	54.00	12.56
60.00	6.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	68.00	15.81
<b>MEAN:</b>						<b>30.11</b>	<b>7.00</b>

\*Tabulated values for hours worked per week are calculated assuming 4.3 weeks in a month

**Average Hours Worked per week by Members on Authority  
Business**



Number of hours worked	0-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	12-15	15-18	18-21	21-24
Number of Members	2	4	3	1	2	1	0	1