



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Members' Remuneration Panel
Date:	24 January 2014
Reporting Officer:	Peter McNaney, Chief Executive
Contact Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources

1	RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION
1.1	As part of the Local Government Reform Programme, the Councillors' Remuneration Panel for NI is conducting a review of councillors' remuneration and advising on the system and level of allowances appropriate for the 11 new councils.
1.2	The Panel has been asked to make recommendations that fairly reflect the roles and responsibilities that councillors will be taking on in the new councils, post reorganisation in April, 2015. It is also considering the allowances that should be paid during the shadow period following the local government elections in 2014 when the new councils will operate alongside the existing 26.
1.3	The Panel was appointed on 1st May 2013 and had initially been given six months to submit its final recommendations to the Department of the Environment.
2	KEY ISSUES
3.1	The DoE has written to the Council, copy attached at Appendix 1, giving notification of a number of focus group engagement events which have been scheduled for local government and other stakeholders to discuss the emerging proposals of the Remuneration Panel and to inform the finalisation of the scheme of allowances that will apply. A Belfast based event is scheduled for 10 February 2014, 10am-1pm in Grosvenor House Conference Centre, 5 Glengall Street.
3	RECOMMENDATION
3.1	The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report and grant authority for Member attendance as an approved duty.

4.0 Resource Implications

There is no Human Resource or financial implications contained within this report.

5.0 Equality and Good Relations Considerations

Equality and good relations implications in relation to this policy are still under consideration. Further updates will be sent to the Equality and Diversity Officer in due course.

6.0 Appendices

Appendix 1 Correspondence from DSD re: Engagement events



Department of the
Environment

www.doeni.gov.uk

Council Mayors and Chairs
Councillors
Clerk and Chief Executive of each District Council
Senior Council Officers
National Association of Councillors
NILGA Office Bearers and Chief Executive
Chair of SOLACE
Staff Side TUS Lead, Employer Side Lead
LGRJF
ALACE
LG Staff Commission
Public Service Commission
Local Government Auditor

Local Government Policy Division

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Malone Lower
BELFAST
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Date: 20 January 2014

Dear Colleagues,

NORTHERN IRELAND COUNCILLORS' REMUNERATION STAKEHOLDER EVENTS

The Department intends to hold a number of targeted focus group events for local government, the public sector and other stakeholders to discuss its proposed response to the recommendations made the Northern Ireland Councillors' Remuneration Panel. The views expressed at these focus group events will be taken into account in finalising the scheme of allowances that will apply to the new councils.

You are invited to attend one of the following venues, on the following dates, and if you cannot make it to the event closest to you, please feel free to attend one of the other locations.

The dates/times and venues are as follows:

6 th February 2014 10.30am – 1pm	Tower Hotel 17-19 Butcher St Londonderry County Derry BT48 6HL
7 th February 2014 10.30am – 1pm	Silverbirch Hotel 5 Gortin Rd Omagh BT79 7DH
10 th February 2014	Grosvenor House Conference & Training 5 Glengall Street

10am – 1pm	Belfast BT12 5AD
10 th February 2014 2.30pm – 5pm	Lough Neagh Discovery Centre Oxford Island National Nature Reserve Craigavon BT66 6NJ
11 th February 2014 10.30am – 1pm	The Showgrounds Warden Street Ballymena BT43 7DR

The Department will send a summary of the recommendations and our proposals to you for consideration prior to the event.

The aim of the events is to obtain feedback on the recommendations made by the Remuneration panel and the Department's proposed response. There will be an opportunity for attendees to ask questions.

It would be helpful if you could let us know in advance if you are able to attend by e-mailing lgru-programoffice@doeni.gov.uk or by telephoning 02890 416716 or 02890 416769.

I look forward to seeing you at one of these events.

Yours sincerely

LIZ LOUGHRAN