

## Appendix A

### Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel

- 4.1 The Bedford Borough Council Independent Remuneration Panel has considered a request from the Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel that it consider whether the position of the Police and Crime Panel Chair should attract a Special Responsibility Allowance and whether an Allowance should be available to other Panel Members.
- 4.2 In considering this request, the IRP had regard to the following:-
- § the role and responsibilities of the Police and Crime Panel
  - § the number of occasions on which the Panel Members have:-
    - met both formally and informally
    - met collectively for training/workshop purposes
    - attended external training events/conferences
    - met as part of a Task Group undertaking a discrete item policy review work
  - § that the Chair of the Panel and the Chief Executive of the Host Authority (Bedford Borough Council) also now hold scheduled monthly meetings with the Police and Crime Commissioner and his Chief Executive).
  - § the results of a survey undertaken to establish whether and what allowances are currently being paid to Chairs/Members of Police and Crime Panels elsewhere in the country – which identified wide ranging practices across England and Wales and that in a significant number of areas no allowances are currently payable
  - § the current level of Basic Allowance paid by the Panel's three Constituent Authorities, together with the levels of Special Responsibility Allowances they currently pay to their Scrutiny Committee Chairs and to their Co-opted Members
- 4.3 The IRP is aware of the moves towards significantly greater collaboration between the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Police Forces and noted, from the survey that had been undertaken, that no allowances are currently payable to the Chairs of, and Members serving on, the Panels covering those Force areas. The IRP was of the view that there should be a consistency of practice across the Panels for the three Force areas concerned and therefore recommends that no allowances be paid to Panel Members from the Home Office grant for Panel support in 2014/15.
- 4.4 In relation to allowances and expenses, the Police and Crime Panel Arrangements provide that:-

*“No allowance will be paid by the Panel itself to Elected Members except following consideration of a report from the Host Authority’s Independent Remuneration Panel and the approval of any proposed allowances by the Constituent Authorities. All Panel Members are entitled to claim mileage expenses for attending Panel meetings and events, at the rate set out in their respective Authority’s Members’ Allowances Scheme, the costs of which can be reimbursed from the Home Office grant for the Panel’s operation”.*

- 4.5 It is of course open to the individual Constituent Authorities themselves to recognise Panel Membership in their individual allowance schemes and to pay their respective Panel Members an allowance themselves.

**5. Recommendations**

- (a) That no allowance be payable to the Chair or any Member of the Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel from the Home Office funding available to meet Panel costs.