

COUNCIL

Members' Allowances Scheme - Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel 2nd February 2011

Report of the Head of Governance

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To enable Council to consider members' allowances for 2011/12, in the light of a report from the Independent Remuneration Panel.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) **Council is asked to consider the recommendations put forward by the Independent Remuneration Panel, and to approve a Members' Allowances Scheme for 2011/12**

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Council is required by the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 to make an allowances scheme for each year. The Regulations require that before an authority makes or amends a scheme, it must have regard to the recommendations made to it by an independent remuneration panel
- 1.2 The report of the Independent Remuneration Panel is attached to this report for consideration by the Council.
- 1.3 A copy of the current Members' Allowance Scheme, extracted from the Constitution, is also attached to this report for Members' information and ease of reference.

2.0 Proposal Details

- 2.1 The recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel are set out in its report, and the Chairman of the Panel has been invited to attend the meeting to present the report and to answer any questions.
- 2.2 Members will note that the report sets out a number of options, which Council is asked to consider.

3.0 Details of Consultation

- 3.1 The attached report presents the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, which the Council is required to have regard to in making any decisions about the allowances scheme.

4.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

- 4.1 The Panel's report sets out a number of options for consideration by Council. It would be open to Council to accept any of those options in its entirety, or

with amendment, or a combination of the options. Council does not have to accept the recommendations of the Panel, but it must have regard to them in making its decision.

5.0 Conclusion

5.1 Council is asked to approve a Members' Allowances Scheme for 2011/12

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

None directly arising from this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The relevant regulation is set out in the report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed 2011/12 budget for members' basic allowances is £206,500 and for special responsibility allowances £101,500, giving a total of £308,000, which could be redistributed between basic and special responsibility allowances. These figures are based on the current year's budget plus inflation. There are separate budgets for carers' allowance and travel allowance.

The special responsibility allowances actually payable will depend on the number of members appointed by the Leader to Cabinet in 2011/12, and on whether there is any duplication of member roles, given that the scheme provides for any member to receive only one special responsibility allowance.

Assuming no duplication of roles it is estimated that the Panel's option 1 would cost in the region of £378,100, option 2A £306,100, option 2B £309,400 and option 2C £291,400. However, for the reasons given above it is not possible to give an accurate figure. Dependant upon which scheme Members approve, option 1 would result in an increase of £70,100, option 2B an increase of £1,400, option 2A a saving of £1,900 and Option 2C a saving of £16,600, which would need to be built into the budget as part of the 2011/12 budget process.

These estimates are on the basis that Council will support the Panel's recommendation to remove the Group Administrator allowance, and the Group Leader allowance in its current form. Based on the current allowances and on six groups and full take-up of the allowances, the maximum cost of the Administrator allowance is £10,700, and the maximum cost of the Group Leader allowance in its current form is £16,590.

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Human Resources:

None

Information Services:

None

Property:

None

Open Spaces:

None

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has prepared this report as she has been providing support to the Independent Remuneration Panel throughout its deliberations.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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