

**Members' Allowances Scheme - Report of the
Independent Remuneration Panel
17th December 2014**

Report of Chief Officer (Governance)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To enable Council to consider members' allowances for 2015/16, 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 2015/16**

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.

2.0 Proposal Details

- 2.1 The recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel are set out in its report, and the Chairman and other members of the Panel have been invited to attend the meeting to present the report and to answer any questions.
- 2.2 Members will note that the report recommends that the basic allowance, which is required by law to be the same for each member, be increased from £3,300 to £3,350, an increase of just over 1.5%. This would be the first increase in the basic allowance since 2009/10. The Panel recommends that the special responsibility allowances, carers' allowances and travel and subsistence allowances remain unchanged.
- 2.3 Members will also note that with regard to car parking, the Panel's preference would be for the Member Car Parking Permit to be withdrawn, and for members, on production of a valid receipt to be reimbursed for the cost of parking in long stay car parks. However, the Panel recognises that in the past the Council has not accepted this recommendation, and the Panel is content for the current dual system to continue whereby members may either be reimbursed for each car parking ticket purchased, or may purchase a

member permit and receive no reimbursement towards the cost of parking.

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 It is open to Council to accept the Panel's report in its entirety, or with amendment. Council does not have to accept the recommendations of the Panel, but the Regulations require that 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 2015/16, to take effect following the elections.

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 provisional 2015/16 budget for members' basic allowances is £203,900 and for special responsibility allowances £86,500 giving a total of £290,400, which could be redistributed between basic and special responsibility allowances. These figures are based on the current year's budget plus estimated inflation; they will be updated as appropriate to reflect the decisions of Council. There are separate budgets for carers' allowance and travel allowance.

The special responsibility allowances actually payable will depend on the number of members appointed to Cabinet by the Leader in May 2015, 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.

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 the officer supporting the Independent Remuneration Panel.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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