

COUNCIL

Members' Allowances Scheme - Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel 1 February 2017

Report of the Chief Executive

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To enable Council to consider members' allowances for 2017/18, in the light of a report from the Independent Remuneration Panel.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) **Council is asked to consider the Independent Remuneration Panel's recommendation of no change to the scheme for 2017/18.**

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 recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel is 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 no change to the Members' Allowances scheme.

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. Councillors were consulted on the draft report on 21 December 2016. Comments were submitted from five Elected Members and the Panel subsequently met again on 16 January 2017 to discuss the feedback received and finalise its report.

4.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

- 4.1 It is open to Council to accept the Panel's recommendation or to make its own proposals. 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 2017/18, to take effect from 1 April 2017.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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

None directly arising from this report (EIA is attached).

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The relevant regulation is set out in the report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

If the recommendation of the IRP is approved, there will be no additional cost to the Council for 2017/18. For comparison purposes, if a 1% increase to the basic allowance were to be proposed in line with the staff pay award, that would carry an additional cost of £2k for 2017/18 and future years, noting that the funding for any increase would need to be identified and to be built into future years budgets.

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 as no comments other than to highlight the need for Council to have due regard to the Panel's recommendations.

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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Equalities Impact Assessment Form

Service	Governance
Title and brief description (if required)	Members' Allowances Scheme – Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel
New or existing	Existing scheme
Author/officer lead	Deborah Chambers
Date	11 January 2017

<p>Does this affect staff, customers or other members of the public?</p> <p>No</p>
