


Report of	Monitoring Officer	Author	Andrew Weavers
Title	Members' Allowance Scheme		 282213
Wards affected	Not Applicable		

This report requests the Council to consider amendments to the Members' Allowances Scheme following recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel

1. Decision(s) Required

- 1.1 To consider and approve, as appropriate, the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel following its review of the Members Allowances Scheme as set out in the report of the Panel and as detailed in paragraph 4.3 (a) – (f) of this report;
- 1.2 To give authority to the Assistant Chief Executive to make the necessary consequential amendments to the existing Members Allowances Scheme.

2. Reasons for Decision(s)

- 2.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel had been convened to review the scheme and the index applied to the scheme to adjust the level of allowances, the periodic review of which was required to be undertaken.
- 2.2 All Councils are required to convene an Independent Remuneration Panel before any changes or amendments are made to their allowances scheme and they must pay regard to the Panel's recommendations before setting a new or amended Members' Allowances Scheme.

3. Alternative Options

- 3.1 It is for the Council to determine to what extent it wishes to pay regard to the recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel, convened under The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, which comprises three independent members of the local community, has conducted a review of the Members' Allowances Scheme. Its report, dated November 2016, and recommendations are attached at Appendix 1 for the Council's consideration.
- 4.2 The terms of reference, composition and working arrangements of the Panel are described in its report and as such the report is self-explanatory.
- 4.3 In summary the Panel's recommendations are as follows, such amendments to be effective from 1 January 2017:

- (a) The existing arrangement for increasing allowances be retained in line with the Council's Allowance Adjustment Index;
- (b) No changes be made to the Scheme in respect of the following matters, namely:
 - Basic Allowance and Adjustment Index;
 - Special Responsibility Allowances for the Leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Members;
 - Special Responsibility Allowances for the Chairmen of Committees/Panels;
 - Special Responsibility Allowances for the Group Leaders;
 - Special Responsibility Allowances for the members of the Planning Committee;
 - The facility to make the payment of a Special Responsibility Allowance for co-opted members;
 - Claim based Travel and Subsistence Allowances in respect of approved duties;
 - Child Care and Dependent Carers' Allowance;
- (c) The Basic Allowance rate be maintained for at least a year after the Electoral Review ward changes came into effect and, from May 2017 onwards, the Panel will welcome any representations from Councillors regarding the impact on their workload;
- (d) The Special Responsibility Allowance payable to members of the Licensing Committee be retained at the current level and in the event that the Council decides to constitute the Licensing Sub-Committee on a formal basis with a fixed membership, the Panel would consider the possibility of transferring the Special Responsibility Allowance from the Licensing Committee members to the Licensing Sub-Committee members;
- (e) The travel payment rates for approved duties continue to be in accordance with the approved HMRC rates and the subsistence payment rates for approved duties be:

Breakfast	£5.00
Lunch	£7.00
Tea	£3.00
Evening meal	£10.00
Overnight	£80.00
London / Conference	£100.00
- (f) More detailed information be made available to current and future councillors about the Members Allowance Scheme and the expense claim options;
- (g) The Council undertakes a review of its current promotional activity relating to the work of a councillor, the commitment required to be a councillor and the opportunities available to elected representatives with a view to more detailed information being made readily available.

4.4 If the Council approves the recommendations of the Panel without further amendment the provisions contained within the existing Members' Allowances Scheme will not require any alteration a copy of which is attached at Appendix 2.

5. Proposals

5.1 The recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel are self explanatory and it is for the Council to determine their merits or otherwise.

6. Standard References

- 6.1 There are no particular references to the Strategic Plan; publicity or consultation considerations; or financial; equality, diversity and human rights; community safety; health and safety or risk management implications.

