


Report of	Assistant Chief Executive	Author	Amanda Chidgey
Title	Members' Allowances Scheme		 282227
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) – (e) 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 has been convened to consider making recommendations on those parts of the existing Members' Allowances Scheme relating to Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) for Leaders of the political groups, in the light of the lack of provision for the role of the Liberal Democrat Group Leader in the current scheme, and relating to the Basic Allowances for the period after May 2016, in the light of the recent conclusion of an Electoral Review which would result in the reduction in the number of Borough Councillors and the associated impact on their current workload.
- 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 2015, 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:
- (a) As a temporary measure for the period from the Council meeting on 10 December 2015 to the end of the current Municipal Year, the Liberal Democrat Group Leader be allocated a monthly sum equivalent to the current Labour Group Leader's SRA (£7,098 pro rata);
 - (b) The future Group Leader Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) for the period after May 2016 be founded on the principle of a base lump sum plus an additional variable sum allocated on a proportional basis in accordance with the number of members in each group, such sums to be payable to each Leader of a political group comprising at least two members;
 - (c) The preferred Group Leader SRA amounts be a base level sum of £2,000 plus a sum of £220 per member of each Group;
 - (d) The generic name for this type of allowance be changed from Main/Other Opposition Leader SRA to Group Leader SRA;
 - (d) The revised Group Leader SRA be effective from the start of the 2016/17 Municipal Year.
 - (e) The Basic Allowance rate be maintained for at least a year after the Electoral Review ward changes come into effect and, from May 2017 onwards, the Panel will welcome any representations from Councillors regarding the impact on their workload.
- 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, subject only to the table of allowances paid being revised to reflect the recommendations set out in Paragraph 4.3 (a) – (d) above.

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. Financial Implications

- 6.1 The changes proposed by the Panel will be met from within the existing Members' Allowances budget.

7. Standard References

- 7.1 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.