

COUNCIL

DATE: 20th FEBRUARY 2013

SUBJECT: MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE (HEAD OF POLICY AND PERFORMANCE)

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IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL	✓	COMMUNITY SAFETY
EQUALITIES	✓	ENVIRONMENT
FINANCIAL	✓	CONSULTATIONS
STAFFING		OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to enable the Council to consider the Report of the Independent Panel on Members' Allowances and to approve a Scheme of Members' Allowances (the Scheme) under the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 and the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2003 (the Regulations).

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. (i) That the Council receive the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel and adopt the proposed Scheme of Members' Allowances, as set out in the report, under the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations and the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2003 with effect from 1st April, 2013.

(ii) That in the event of the recommendations of the Independent

Remuneration Panel not being agreed, a Special Responsibility Allowance of one sixth of the Basic Allowance (£1,250) should be paid to the Chairs of the Scrutiny Finance Review Group and the Health and Social Care Review Group.

REPORT

3. The Regulations referred to above make provision for local authorities to:-
 - (a) Prepare schemes for the payment of allowances to their Members which must include a basic allowance and may include payments for Special Responsibility Allowance, dependent carers' allowance, travelling and subsistence allowance and co-optees' allowance.
 - (b) Administer and publicise any scheme of allowances.
 - (c) Establish an Independent Panel to make recommendations on allowances.
4. The Council are required to adopt a Scheme to come into force on 1st April, 2013.
5. In addition, the Regulations make provision concerning Members' entitlement to pensions in accordance with a scheme made under Section 7 of the Superannuation Act 1972 and concerning which allowances may be treated as amounts in respect of which pensions are payable and the Council has already accepted the decision of the Independent Remuneration Panel not to make Members of the Council eligible for membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6. The legal implications for the Council are as set at out in paragraphs 3 and 4 above.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

7. The intention of the Regulations in requiring the establishment of an Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances by each Local Authority included the desire to extend the opportunity to become a Councillor to as wide an audience as possible, through the development of local remuneration schemes.
8. The Independent Remuneration Panel have consistently held this intention as one of the principles under which they have made their recommendations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. There are financial implications arising from the Panel's recommendations which will result in budget savings if the recommendations at 2(i) are accepted and an additional cost if 2(ii) is accepted.

APPENDIX

10. Appendix 1: Report of the Independent Panel on Members' Allowances – February 2013.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

11. Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003
12. Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2003.