

<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Monitoring Officer and Head of Finance</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Steve Partridge</b>
<b>Telephone No:</b>	<b>01543 464588</b>
<b>Portfolio Leader:</b>	<b>Leader of the Council</b>
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Report Track:</b>	<b>Council: 15/04/15</b>

**COUNCIL**  
**15 APRIL, 2015**  
**REVIEW OF THE MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME**

**1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 For Council to review the report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) in respect of allowances to be paid under the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2015-16.

**2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That Council considers the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (detailed in Appendix 1 of this report), as reported to Council on 9 April, 2014, and approves a Members' Allowances Scheme effective from 1 April, 2015.

**3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1 Under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, the Council is required to:
- Adopt a Members' Allowances Scheme which must be approved on at least an annual basis;
  - Establish an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) to review the Scheme on a regular basis;
  - When adopting a new/revised Scheme, have regard to any reports or recommendations from the IRP.
  - Publicise any recommendation made by the IRP.

- Publicise details of the Scheme once it has been revised or newly adopted.
  - Ensure an accurate record is kept of the total amounts of allowances paid to each councillor and the types of allowances paid.
- 3.3 Although it is a statutory requirement that the Council has a Members' Allowances Scheme, it is important to keep the Scheme under regular review to ensure that allowances paid are appropriate to reflect both the 'Council based' roles (e.g. Cabinet members, committee chairs etc.) and community leadership roles that Members' have.
- 3.4 Members' will also need to take into account any budgetary costs/savings which could arise out of any changes recommended to the Scheme (further details are provided in section 6.1 of this report).
- 3.5 The IRP recommended a two year scheme, which was largely standstill for 2014-15 (see further detail in 5.1, below). For 2015-16, it was recommended that the basic, special responsibility (SRA) and Civic allowances be amended in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rate applicable in December, 2014. The Head of Finance has confirmed that this rate was 0.50%, and Council approval is now sought to confirm that this rate of increase should be applied to allowances, as detailed in Appendix 1 to this report.

#### **4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities**

- 4.1 This report supports the Council's Corporate Priorities by ensuring that persons who elect to stand for office as a local councillor are not financially disadvantaged by doing so, by recompensing them, in part, for the time spent on service to the community.

#### **5 Report Detail**

- 5.1 For information, the main recommendations of the Panel for 2014-15 were:
- Length of revised Scheme – 2 years
  - Basic Allowance – no change
  - Leader of the Council – no change
  - Deputy Leader of the Council – no change
  - Councillors of Cabinet – no change
  - Leader of the Opposition – no change
  - Chairman of Scrutiny Committee – no change
  - Chairman of Planning Control Committee – no change
  - Councillors of Shadow Cabinet – remove from Scheme

- Chairmen of Policy Development Committees – no change
  - Chairman of Licensing & Public Protection Committee – no change
  - Chairman of Audit & Governance Committee – no change
  - Chairman of the Fundamental Service Review – remove from Scheme
  - Chairman of Standards Committee (Independent Councillor) – remove from Scheme
  - Chairman of the Council – no change
  - Vice-Chairman of the Council – no change
  - Travel and Subsistence Allowances – continue to link to officers' rates
- 5.2 Although the Panel recommended a two year scheme, and it has, therefore, not been necessary to convene a meeting of the IRP, its recommendations in respect of 2015-16 are required to be approved by Council.
- 5.2 For 2015-16, the IRP recommended that the basic, Special Responsibility (SRA) and Civic allowances be amended in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rate applicable in December, 2014. The Head of Finance has confirmed that this rate was 0.50%, and Council approval is now sought to confirm that this rate of increase should be applied to allowances, as detailed in Appendix 1 to this report.

## **6 Implications**

### **6.1 Financial**

The cost of a 0.5% increase in Members Allowances amounts to £1,780 and provision exists within the approved budget for 2015-16 to reflect this increase.

### **6.2 Legal**

Referred to under section 3.2 of this report.

### **6.3 Human Resources**

None.

### **6.4 Section 17 (Crime Prevention)**

None.

### **6.5 Human Rights Act**

None.

### **6.6 Data Protection**

None.

**6.7 Risk Management**

None.

**6.8 Equality & Diversity**

None.

**6.9 Best Value**

None.

**7 Appendices to the Report**

Appendix 1 Summary of Independent Remuneration Panel recommendations for 2014-15 and 2015-16, as approved at Council 9 April, 2014

**Previous Consideration**

Review of Members' Allowances Scheme

Council

9 April, 2014

Previous reviews of the Scheme have taken place generally at two year intervals or when required.

**Background Papers**

None.

**Summary of Independent Remuneration Panel recommendations for 2014-15 and 2015-16, as approved at Council, 9 April, 2014**

<b>Scheme Area/Allowance</b>	<b>Previous Provision/Allowance</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
Length of Scheme	2 years	2 years
Basic Allowance	£5,339 (inclusive of £1,224 for consumables purchases)	No change for 2014-15. Amend for 2015-16 in line with the December 2014 CPI rate
Leader of the Council	£18,150	No change for 2014-15. Amend for 2015-16 in line with the December 2014 CPI rate
Deputy Leader of the Council	£9,260	No change for 2014-15. Amend for 2015-16 in line with the December 2014 CPI rate
Councillors of Cabinet	£8,025	No change for 2014-15. Amend for 2015-16 in line with the December 2014 CPI rate
Leader of the Opposition	£6,791	No change for 2014-15. Amend for 2015-16 in line with the December 2014 CPI rate
Chairman of Scrutiny Committee	£6,791	No change for 2014-15. Amend for 2015-16 in line with the December 2014 CPI rate
Chairman of Planning Control Committee	£4,322	No change for 2014-15. Amend for 2015-16 in line with the December 2014 CPI rate

<b>Scheme Area/Allowance</b>	<b>Current Provision/Allowance</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
Councillors of Shadow Cabinet	£NIL	Remove from Scheme
Chairmen of Policy Development Committees	£1,853	No change for 2014-15. Amend for 2015-16 in line with the December 2014 CPI rate
Chairman of Licensing & Public Protection Committee	£1,853	No change for 2014-15. Amend for 2015-16 in line with the December 2014 CPI rate
Chairman of Audit & Governance Committee	£1,853	No change for 2014-15. Amend for 2015-16 in line with the December 2014 CPI rate
Chairman of the Fundamental Services Review	£840	Remove from Scheme
Chairman of the Standards Committee (Independent Councillor)	£378	Remove from Scheme
Chairman of the Council	£8,980	No change for 2014-15. Amend for 2015-16 in line with the December 2014 CPI rate
Vice-Chairman of the Council	£3,525	No change for 2014-15. Amend for 2015-16 in line with the December 2014 CPI rate
ICT Allowance	£1,200 in year of (re)election, followed by £400 per year for following three years	No change
Carers' Allowances	Maximum hourly rate equivalent to the maximum wage applicable to the age of the carer (this increases for people aged over 60 with disabilities or learning difficulties where professional care is required)	No change

**ITEM NO. 9.7**

Travel Allowances	Same as rates paid to officers	Continue to link to Officer rates
Subsistence Allowances	Same as rates paid to officers	Continue to link to Officer rates