

ANNUAL COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM No. 13
23 MAY 2016	PUBLIC REPORT

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MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S
FROM : Director of Governance and Independent Remuneration Panel
<p>Council is requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) to approve the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2016/17, (Appendix 1); and (b) to note the Independent Members Remuneration Panel will begin a review of the Scheme and report its recommendations to Council later in the year.

1. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The Council must adopt a Members Allowance Scheme each year, having regard to the recommendations of an independent panel. The Allowance Scheme has expired for 2015/16. This report therefore asks Members to agree to carry forward the existing Members Allowance Scheme (**Appendix 1**) pending an immediate review of the Scheme.
- 1.2 The Council has a statutory requirement to establish and maintain an Independent Members' Allowances Panel. This Panel has the functions of providing the local authority with advice on its Members' Allowances Scheme and the nature and level of allowances to be paid. The Council must 'have regard' to the Panel's recommendations.

2. BACKGROUND AND CONSULTATION

- 2.1 In January 2016, the Council adopted revised governance arrangements to take effect from this Annual meeting in May 2016. The Panel therefore recommended that it should begin its review of allowances once the outcome of the elections was known and the new governance arrangements had come into effect (**Appendix 2**).
- 2.2 As the current scheme is expired, Council is asked to agree the Members Allowance Scheme (as set out in **Appendix 1**) as an interim measure until the Independent Remuneration Panel has concluded its review of the new arrangements and made its recommendations to Council. The regulations allow for in year amendments.

3. IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 **Legal** - Each year, an authority shall agree an allowances scheme for its members as required by the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003. Before an authority makes or amends a scheme, the authority shall have regard to the recommendations made in relation to it by an independent remuneration panel. Amendments to the Scheme can be made in year.

3.2 **Finance** – The current level of allowances is accounted for within the Council's budget. Any financial implications arising from a recommendation to change the allowances can be dealt with as part of the review of the Scheme.

4. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

4.1 None.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Report of the Independent Panel

Appendix 2 – Proposed Member Allowance Scheme