

Name of meeting: Council
Date: Wednesday 22 March 2017
Title of report: Report of the Members Allowances Independent Review Panel

Purpose of report

To recommend that Council consider the outcomes of the Members Allowances Independent Review Panel for 2017/18, and the consequential Members Allowances Scheme, whilst having regard to the recommendations of Corporate Governance and Audit Committee.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	No
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	No, this is a decision of Council
Date signed off by <u>Director</u> & name Is it also signed off by the Assistant Director for Financial Management, IT, Risk and Performance? Is it also signed off by the Assistant Director (Legal Governance and Monitoring)?	Debbie Hogg – 13 March 2017 Julie Muscroft – 13 March 2017
Cabinet member portfolio	Councillor Graham Turner

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: No, although where councillors have provided evidence to the Panel it is detailed in the report.

Public or private: Public

1. Summary

This report sets out the recommendations of Corporate Governance and Audit Committee following their consideration of the report of the Members Allowances Independent Review Panel. If agreed by Council, this will determine the scheme and allowances payable to councillors for 2017/18. This will be effective from 1 April 2017.

2. Information required to take a decision

The Corporate Governance and Audit Committee, at its meeting on 10 March 2017, considered the attached report of the Members Allowances Independent Review Panel which had put forward recommendations that:

- (i) The current basic allowance be increased by 1% with effect from 1 April 2017;
- (ii) All special responsibility allowances (SRAs) be retained at their current rate and banding for 2017/18;
- (iii) Current arrangements for the allowances payable to Group Business Managers is retained
- (iv) Section 12 of the Scheme be amended as set out in Appendix B.

The draft Members Allowances Scheme for 2017/18, which takes account of the recommendations of the Panel, is attached at Appendix B.

At its meeting on 10 March Corporate Governance and Audit Committee agreed the following:

- (1) That the report of the Members Allowances Independent Review Panel be received and noted.**
- (2) That the report be submitted to the meeting of Council on 22 March 2017.**

3. Implications for the Council

This Members' Allowances Scheme is made under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, and the Local Government Pension Scheme and Discretionary Compensation (Local Authority Members in England) Regulations 2003.

In making this scheme the Council has regard to the recommendations of its Members' Allowances Independent Review Panel which met on 18 November 2016.

The proposed increase to the rate of basic allowance, in line with the pay rise for officers, will cost an additional £8,901. This can be contained within budgeted resources for 2017/18.

3.1 Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP)

There will be no impact

3.2 Economic Resilience (ER)

There will be no impact

3.3 Improving outcomes for Children

There will be no impact

3.4 Reducing demand of services

There will be no impact

4. Consultees and their opinions

None applicable to this report as there have been no changes as a result of consideration by Corporate Governance and Audit Committee.

5. Next steps

Following approval by Council the revised scheme will be implemented with effect from 1 April 2017.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

That Council considers the recommendations of both the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee and the members Allowances Independent Review Panel with a view to determining the Members Allowances Scheme for 2017/18, with effect from 1 April 2017

7. Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations

Not applicable to this report.

8. Contact officer

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9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Report of Members of Allowances Independent Review Panel, 2017/18
Recommendation of Corporate Governance and Audit Committee on 10 March 2017

10. Assistant Director responsible

Julie Muscroft, Assistant Director of Legal, Governance and Monitoring