

Report to Council

Subject: Independent Remuneration Panel - Report and recommendations for 2016/17

Date: 7 March 2016

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Purpose

To inform Council of the latest report from the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP), relating to member remuneration for 2016/17, and invite Council to consider the recommendations made by the Panel.

Background

Members will recall that following the Council size review undertaken by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) a Strategic Review of Members' Allowances was commissioned. This work took place through a series of meetings involving a cross-party group of Councillors throughout 2015. Various ideas for Councillor remuneration were discussed at the meetings with regard to both Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances.

The cross-party group of Members ultimately were unable to arrive at a consensus for future remuneration options to present to the IRP. All Councillors were therefore contacted and asked for their views on future remuneration. The report from the Panel is attached at Appendix 1 to this report. A proposed scheme of allowances, based on the Panel's recommendations, is attached as Appendix 2 to this report. Appendix 3 contains the scheme of allowances as approved for 2015/16 for comparison purposes.

Also attached to this report at Appendix 4 is a revised section of Part 6 of the constitution which has been updated and amended to take account of recent procedural and legislative changes. The changes include removing references to the suspension of elected members which is now not possible due to the removal of local sanctions available to the Standards Committee. References to the Local Government Pension scheme have also been removed as a result of the legislative change to remove councillors as pension scheme members.

Proposal

The Independent Remuneration Panel's report, at Appendix 1, proposes a new scheme of allowances. Council is therefore invited to consider the Panel's recommendations with a view to setting allowances for the next financial year.

As the scheme before Council proposes new levels of allowances the scheme must be published in the local press once a decision is made. The Council must also give public notification that the IRP's report is available for inspection.

Financial Implications

Any allowances paid to members will have financial implications for the authority's budget. Any decision taken as a result of this report will therefore need to be factored into the budget process.

The proposals before members today have been shared with the Chief Financial Officer and can be managed within the proposed budget for 2016/17.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel 2016/16

Appendix 2 – Indicative schedule of Members Allowances 2016/17

Appendix 3 – Current schedule of Members Allowances ending March 2016.

Appendix 4 – Amended extract of the constitution

Recommendation(s)

Council is recommended: -

- 1) To consider the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel and to agree a new Members' Allowances Scheme for 2016/17;
- 2) To agree that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make appropriate changes to Part 6 of the Constitution to reflect any changes to members' allowances agreed and to bring the constitution up to date with recent legislative changes; and
- 3) To approve the terms of reference for the Independent Remuneration Panel as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.