

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

24th FEBRUARY 2016

MEMBERS ALLOWANCES – INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr Denaro
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services
Ward(s) Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) Consulted	N/A
Key Decision / Non-Key Decision	Non-key

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 This report asks the Cabinet to consider the report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP); to recommend acceptance or otherwise of the IRP's report to Council and similarly to recommend a Members Allowances scheme for 2016-17 arising from this.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet is asked to RECOMMEND that

- 2.1 the Council accepts all, some, or none of the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for 2016-17;
- 2.2 having considered the Panel's report and recommendations, whether the Council changes the scheme of allowances for Members for 2016-17.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 The Council reduced in size from 39 to 31 members following the local elections in May last year. The budget for members allowances reduces by approx. £30,000 as a result of this reduction.
- 3.2 If changes to the current amounts of allowances are made there may be additional savings or costs. If the Council implements the recommendations of the IRP – a slight reduction in the allowances – it would save approx. £1,500 per year against current payments for basic and special responsibility allowances.

Legal Implications

- 3.3 The Council is required to maintain a Panel of people from outside the Council to consider and recommend to it:
- the level of basic and special responsibility allowances paid to Councillors and

- travel, subsistence and dependent carers' expenses for Councillors.

The Council is required to "have regard" to the recommendations of the Panel. However, it is not obliged to agree to them. It can choose to implement them in full or in part, or not to accept them.

- 3.4 The Council is also required to review its scheme of allowances for Councillors on an annual basis, prior to the start of the new financial year. If changes to the amounts of the allowances are agreed then the scheme will be updated automatically.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.5 The current allowances paid by the authority are shown in appendix 1 to the IRP's report, together with the allowances recommended by the Panel.
- 3.6 The Council is deciding on the level of allowances payable to members from 1st April. .

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.7 There are no specific customer or equalities implications arising from this report.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 Payments to Councillors can be a high profile issue. The main risks are reputational. However, the Council is transparent about the decisions made on allowances. The Allowances scheme and sums paid to Councillors each year are published on the Council's website.

5. APPENDICES

Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for 2016-17.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

7. KEY

IRP – Independent Remuneration Panel

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Sheena Jones

email: sheena.jones@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Tel.: 01527 548240