

# **BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL**

**25th JANUARY 2017**

## **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

### **1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 This report asks the Council to consider the report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP); to decide whether or not to accept the IRP's report and to agree the Members Allowances scheme for 2017-18 arising from this.

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **The Council is asked to RESOLVE**

- 2.1 whether or not to accept all, some, or none of the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for 2017-18;
- 2.2 having considered the Panel's report and recommendations, whether the Council changes the scheme of allowances for Members for 2017-18.

### **3. KEY ISSUES**

#### **Financial Implications**

- 3.1 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 very slight reduction in the basic allowance and some changes to multipliers of the Basic Allowance used for Special Responsibility Allowances – it would incur additional costs of approx. £1,000 per year against estimated full year current payments for basic and special responsibility allowances. Service savings would have to be made to fund this additional cost.

#### **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 If the Council wishes to change its scheme of allowances for Councillors it should do so prior to the start of the new financial year, having had regard to recommendations made by the Panel. If changes to the amounts of the allowances are agreed by the Council, 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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017.

**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 2017-18.

**6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

**7. KEY**

IRP – Independent Remuneration Panel

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