

MEMBERS ALLOWANCES – INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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| Relevant Portfolio Holder | Cllr K May |
| 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 2020-21 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 2020-21;

2.2 having considered the Panel's report and recommendations, whether or not changes are required to the Council's scheme of allowances for Members arising from this.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

3.1 If the Council makes changes to the current amounts of allowances there may be additional savings or costs. If the Council implements all the recommendations of the IRP costs would be increased in the region of £5,900.

Legal Implications

3.2 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.

- 3.3 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

- 3.4 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.

Customer/Equalities and Diversity Implications

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

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

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 and recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel for 2020-21.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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