



Reigate & Banstead
BOROUGH COUNCIL
Banstead | Horley | Redhill | Reigate

REPORT OF:	HEAD OF CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT
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TO:	COUNCIL
DATE:	15TH DECEMBER 2011

AGENDA ITEM NO:	11	WARD(S) AFFECTED:	N/A
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SUBJECT:	THE TWELTH REPORT OF THE COUNCIL'S INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL ON MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES FOR 2012/13.
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:	TO SUBMIT THE REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL ON MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES FOR 2012/13 TO COUNCIL; REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE PANEL'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND, BASED ON THESE, SEEK APPROVAL TO A MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME FOR 2012/13.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) be adopted;
2. The Chief Executive be authorised to make any necessary changes to the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2012/13 (approved under (1) above) arising from any amendment or non-adoption of the IRP's recommendations on Allowances;
3. The financial implications arising from the adoption of the Panel's recommendations be noted and built into the Council's 2012/13 Budget Proposal and future years projections; and
4. The IRP be thanked for its report.

SUMMARY

This report sets out proposals on the Members Allowances Scheme for 2012/13 following a review by the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel. The IRP's report contains 9 recommendations for Council to consider as detailed in paragraph 4 of this report. Arising from the Recommendations the report sets out the budgetary requirement for 2012/13 and a Members Allowances scheme to apply from 1st April 2012.

Statutory Powers

1. In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2000* and guidance from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, the Council is required to have a Members Allowances Scheme recommended by its Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP). The IRP has accordingly undertaken a review of the Authority's Members' Allowances and its report is attached at page 25 of the Agenda.
2. The IRP's report on the outcome of its review (with a range of recommendations) was formally presented to the Chief Executive on 29 November, 2011 and is now before the Council to consider. Prior to despatch of the Council agenda the IRP report was circulated to all Members.
3. Members will be aware that, under the Constitution, this issue is reserved for full Council. This means that it has not previously been the subject of debate by any other decision-making body.

Report of the IRP

4. The IRP's report (which contains 9 recommendations to Council) is set out in Annex A. The IRP's recommendations on Members' Allowances for 2012/13 relate to:

	Pages of IRP Report on Council Agenda
(i) Use of an External Benchmark (the CPI)	29 and 30
(ii) Methodology for 2011/12	29 and 30
(iii) Basic Allowance	31 and 32
<i>Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs)</i>	
(iv) Existing	32 to 35
(v) New	34
(vi) Travel and Subsistence Allowances	35 and 36
(vii) Carers' Allowance	36
(viii) Pensions	36 and 37
(ix) Members' Allowances Scheme 2012/13	37

Financial Implications

5. The cost of the proposed scheme cannot be stated with complete certainty. Some Members, for personal reasons, choose not to claim allowances to which they are entitled.
6. The maximum cost of the Members Allowances scheme for 2011/12 is £386,484 (including NI) and for 2012/13 will be the same. These figures relate

solely to Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances and do not take account of some Members who, as indicated in paragraph 5 above, choose not to take all or part of their entitled Allowances. The budget required for 2012/13 is £384,800 unchanged from 11/12. The Travel and Subsistence budget required for 2012/13 is £7,000 unchanged from 11/12 ie. the proposed increase in travel allowance for cars can be met from within the existing budget.

Members' Allowances Scheme for 2012/13

7. Based on the recommendations of the IRP, the Officers have prepared a Members' Allowances Scheme for 2012/13 and this is set out in Annex 5 to the IRP report. Should Council amend or not adopt any of the IRP's recommendations, then the proposed scheme will need to be suitably amended. Delegation on this matter to the Chief Executive is proposed (Recommendation 2).

Background Papers: None.