



REPORT OF:	HEAD OF CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT
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TO:	COUNCIL
DATE:	13TH DECEMBER 2012

AGENDA ITEM NO:	11	WARD(S) AFFECTED:	N/A
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SUBJECT:	THE THIRTEENTH REPORT OF THE COUNCIL'S INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL ON MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES FOR 2013/14.
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:	TO SUBMIT THE REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL ON MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES FOR 2013/14 TO COUNCIL; REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE PANEL'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND, BASED ON THESE, SEEK APPROVAL TO A MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME FOR 2013/14.

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 2013/14 (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 2013/14 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 2013/14 following a review by the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel. The IRP's report contains 11 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 2013/14 and a Members Allowances scheme to apply from 1st April 2013.

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 ** 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 22 November, 2012 and is now before the Council to consider. Prior to despatch of the Council agenda the IRP report was made available 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 11 recommendations to Council) is set out in Annex A. The IRP's recommendations on Members' Allowances for 2013/14 relate to:

	Pages of IRP Report on Council Agenda
(i) Use of an External Benchmark (the CPI)	27-29
(ii) Basic Allowance	30-31
(iii - vii) Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs)	31-33
(viii) Travel and Subsistence Allowances	35-36
(ix) Carers' Allowance	36
(x) Pensions	36-37
(xi) Members' Allowances Scheme 2013/14	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 2012/13 is £386,484 (including NI) and for 2013/14 there will be an overall small increase if the IRP's recommendations are adopted. 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 2013/14 is £401,350 which has increased by £16,583 from 2012/13. The Travel and Subsistence budget required for 2013/14 is £7,000 unchanged from 2012/13.

Members' Allowances Scheme for 2013/14

7. Based on the recommendations of the IRP, the Officers have prepared a Members' Allowances Scheme for 2013/14 and this is set out in Annex 4 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.

