

ITEM

ITEM

Council – 17 December 2009

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES 2010/11

Report of the Independent Panel on Members' Allowances

Statutory Powers: The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances)(England) Regulations 2003

Financial Implications: If approved, the revised Scheme for 2010/11 will have a financial impact of £6,426 upon existing budgets.

Purpose of report

1. To determine the new Scheme of Members' Allowances for 2010 / 2011, whilst having regard to the recommendations of the Independent Panel on Members' Allowances.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council RESOLVES that the recommendations of the Independent Panel on Members' Allowances presented at Appendix A be agreed and that the revised Scheme of Members Allowances, as shown at Appendix C, be adopted from 1 April 2010.

Background

2. In accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, it is a requirement that any changes to a Council's Scheme of Members' Allowances are considered initially by an Independent Panel appointed for that purpose which then makes recommendations to the Council. The Panel met on 24 November 2009 to consider changes to the Scheme, which would take effect from 1 April 2010.
3. A copy of the Panel's report is attached at Appendix A, including its various recommendations. A summary of the budget implications arising from the recommendations of the Panel is shown at Appendix B. The proposed Scheme of Members' Allowances, incorporating the Panel's recommendations is attached at Appendix C.

Risk Assessment

Opportunity	Issues/Obstacles	Benefits
An annual review creates the opportunity for the Scheme to be continually updated and relevant.	The Council has a statutory requirement to adopt a Scheme of Allowances and to consider the recommendations of its Independent Panel in doing so.	The Scheme will be current and will reflect any changes and trends in the Council's political structure and the role of a Member.

Conclusion

4. The Panel was appreciative of the comments and representations submitted by Members. It is hoped that its report provides the background and explanation as to the recommendations and decisions which the Panel is putting forward.

Independent Panel on Members Allowances

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Background Documents:

Scheme of Members Allowances April 2009

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003