

ITEM

ITEM

Council – 18 December 2008

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

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 2009/10 will have no impact upon existing budgets.

Purpose of report

1. To determine the new Scheme of Members' Allowances for 2009 / 2010 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 B, be adopted from 1 April 2009.

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 2 December 2008 to consider changes to the Scheme which would take effect from 1 April 2009.
3. A copy of the Panel's report is attached at Appendix A, including its various recommendations. The proposed Scheme of Members' Allowances, incorporating the Panel's recommendations is attached at Appendix B.

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 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 2008

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