

REPORT FOR: **COUNCIL**

Date of Meeting: 4 July 2013

Subject: Members' Allowances

Responsible Officer: Director of Legal and Governance Services

Exempt: No

Enclosures: Appendix - Members' Allowances Scheme

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

Following recent changes in the political composition of the Council, Council is asked to consider changes to the Members' Allowances Scheme.

Recommendations: That the Members' Allowances Scheme, as amended in Schedule 1, be adopted and payments be backdated to the relevant date of the individual Members' appointment.

Section 2 – Report

Members' Allowances are governed by The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 and each year, at the February Council (Council Tax) meeting, the Council makes a Members' Allowances scheme for the following financial year. Under the Regulations, when making or amending a Scheme, the Council is required to have regard to the recommendations of an Independent Remuneration Panel (section 19). On 28 February 2013, the Council approved the current scheme until 31 March 2014.

Under the Scheme, all Members receive a Basic Allowance, which is paid directly into Members' bank accounts in 12 monthly instalments. The Basic Allowance is designed not only to recognise the time commitment that Members put into their duties as Councillors, but also to cover incidental costs in discharging their duties, eg private telephone calls, cost of buying a computer to do Ward work at home, broadband, etc. Some Members also receive a Special Responsibility Allowance to recognise that they have additional responsibilities (eg Cabinet members). Members can elect to forgo their allowances.

Following changes in the political composition of the Council in May 2013, it has become clear that the existing scheme does not adequately reflect the Council as it now is. For example, there are now two political Groups comprising 25 Members and there are Non Executive Members on Cabinet.

Schedule 1 to this report sets out the proposed changes to the Scheme. These proposals have been shared with the Leaders of the Groups. In summary, the proposed changes are:

- Leader of the Third Largest Group to receive Band 4 (Band 1 in accordance with the Panel recommendations above)
- Deputy Leaders of the largest Groups to receive Band 1 to reflect that there are now 2 Groups comprising 25 Members
- Chairman of Grants Advisory Panel to receive Band 1 instead of Band 3 to reflect the reduction in the number of meetings
- Chairman of GARM to receive Band 3 instead of Band 1 as it is a main Committee
- Chairman of the Pension Fund Committee to receive Band 3 as it is a main Committee
- Vice Chairman and Nominated Member of the party not holding the Chair of the Planning Committee to receive Band 3 to reflect the change in the composition of the Committee
- Leaders of the largest Groups to receive Band 5 to reflect that there are now two Groups comprising 25 Members
- Deputy Leader of the Council to receive Band 6 as a point of clarification
- Cabinet Non Executive Members to receive Band 6 (this role is not referred to in the Panel's report)
- Leader of the Council to receive Band 8 or 9 as a point of clarification

The scheme also states that a basic allowance of £445 per annum shall be paid to co-optees to formal Council Committees.

Financial Implications

The scheme will be delivered within the existing budget.

Equalities implications

None

Corporate Priorities

N/a

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Simon George	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chief Financial Officer
Date: 3 July 2013		
Name: Hugh Peart	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Monitoring Officer
Date: 3 July 2013		

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Alison Atherton tel: 020 8424 1266
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Background Papers: Members' Allowances Scheme 2013/14

If appropriate, does the report include the following considerations?

1.	Consultation	YES
2.	Corporate Priorities	N/a