

MEMBER SCHEME OF ALLOWANCES 2017/18

EXECUTIVE MEMBER:	Councillor David Moore
LEAD OFFICER	Fiona Rooney Director of Commercial and Corporate Resources (and Section 151 Officer)
REPORT AUTHOR	Denise James

Why has this report come to the Council?

The Council's Independent Remuneration Panel has reviewed the scheme of allowances and the salary of the Mayor in accordance with the recommendation of Council on 25 February 2016.

Recommendation:

That a) the allowances set out in Appendix A to this report be approved as the basis for the Council's scheme of allowances for 2017/18; and

b) with regards to the Allowances for Chairs this be backdated to the 1st April 2016.

1 Introduction

1.1 Council by law is required to consider the recommendations of an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) in making decisions on its scheme of allowances.

1.2 The IRP comprises three members, listed below, who were all appointed following a recruitment exercise in October 2014:

Mr Richard Askew

Mr Phillip Robinson

Rev. Keith Teasdale

1.3 In coming to its recommendation the Panel looked at the current scheme of member allowances. They also considered the current and anticipated future financial position of the Council. The schemes of allowances of other comparable authorities had been studied in a benchmarking exercise.

2. Allowances for the Chair of Committees

2.1 The Council at its meeting on the 25th February 2016 determined to ask the Panel to consider the establishment of allowances for the Chairs of Committees (C75 (9) refers).

- 2.2 The Panel have now considered this and have made recommendations to set an allowance for the Chairs of Audit and Governance, Planning, Overview and Scrutiny, Licensing and Taxi and General Licensing Committees details of which are set out in Appendix A.
- 2.3 If these allowances are approved and as the IRP Panel were asked to consider this prior to the start of the 2016/17 financial year Members are now asked to consider if this allowance should commence at the start of the 2016/17 financial year. It is recommended that they are.

2 Members Allowances

- 2.1 Apart from the increase to the existing allowance to the Chair of Audit and Governance Committee and the additions of allowances to the Chairs of Planning, Overview and Scrutiny, Licensing and Taxi and General Licensing no further increases or amendments have been recommended.
- 3.1 The Panel recommends that the allowance of £18 per month for broadband is withdrawn. The panel felt that broadband was a utility service which most homeowners would have irrespective of being a Councillor. However, as the authority no longer publishes paper copies of its agendas to Councillors they are therefore required to have a broadband connection in order to receive their agendas and other correspondence electronically. This should therefore remain as an allowance.

4 Budgetary Context

- 4.1 In 2016/17 the Chief Finance Officer (S151 Officer) advised that additional contingency provision of £45,000 had been made in the event of all IRP recommendations being implemented as this was the case provision is being made on a permanent basis.

Should all recommendations be approved along with the backdating of the allowances set for Chairs this would remain within the budget.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel has undertaken a review of the Member Allowance Scheme, as agreed by council in 2016, and now makes its recommendations to Council. The Panel is keen to continue with an annual "light touch" review of the Member Allowance Scheme.

Consultees: Head of Paid Service; Section 151 Officer; Lead Executive Member

Monitoring Officer comments: The proposals comply with the Local Authorities (Members allowance) (England) Regulation 2003

S151 Officer comments: Included in the report

EIA comments:

Appendix A – Recommendations for approval.

Appendix B – IRP Report.