

CABINET

10 FEBRUARY 2016

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME - 2016/2017

Report of the Interim Head of Paid Service and Head of Law and Governance

1. Purpose of report

To present the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on the level of members' allowances for the next financial year, in order for Cabinet to make appropriate recommendations to Council.

2. Description of decision

To consider the report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel and make appropriate recommendations to Council.

3. Independent Remuneration Panel

Each Local Authority is required to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel to make recommendations to the Council about the allowances to be paid to elected members. The members of the Panel are John Anderson CBE, John Cuthbert and Karen Straughair.

The Council is required to renew the Members' Allowances Scheme for each financial year and to do so before the beginning of each new year. When making or amending a Scheme, the Council is required to have regard to the Panel's recommendations.

The Panel has considered the number and level of allowances payable to Members and its report is attached as Appendix 1. Should the Council's Committee structure remain as at present, the Panel has not recommended any changes to the Scheme. It has however included recommendations in respect of the Council's Scrutiny arrangements, should the Council resolve to proceed with proposals to introduce one overarching Scrutiny Committee with 3 thematic Scrutiny Committees.

4. Reasons for decision

The Council must make a new Scheme before the beginning of each financial year.

5. Alternative Options

The recommendations have been arrived at following careful consideration by the Panel. It is not therefore recommended that the Council adopt any alternative arrangements.

6. Financial Implications

The proposal to introduce one overarching Scrutiny Committee with 3 thematic Scrutiny Committees will result in a saving of £7,767 on existing budget provision upon implementation.

Background papers

Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel