

**CABINET**

**11 MARCH 2015**

**REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME BY THE INDEPENDENT  
REMUNERATION PANEL**

**Report of the Chief Executive and Head of Law and Governance**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To consider the outcome of the Independent Remuneration Panel's Review of Members' Allowances and make appropriate recommendations to Council.

**2. Description of Decision (Recommendations)**

- 2.1 Cabinet is requested to consider the outcome of the Independent Remuneration Panel's review, and make appropriate recommendations to Council.

**3. Introduction/Background**

- 3.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel has met and recommended no change to the Members' Allowance Scheme for the forthcoming year.
- 3.2 The Panel has responsibility for making recommendations on Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances, pensions eligibility, travel and subsistence and co-optees allowances. The functions of the Panel are described in Annex 1 of this report. Local Authorities must have regard to the advice of the Panel when deciding on their Members' Allowances Scheme and the amounts to be paid thereunder.
- 3.3 During the course of the review, the Panel received information regarding how the operation of the revised executive and committee arrangements and the roles and responsibilities thereunder had been embedded in council arrangements, and also considered representations that had been made by members in respect of a number of other aspects of the Scheme. Following careful consideration of these matters, the Panel has recommended that the Members' Allowances Scheme remains unchanged. A copy of the current Scheme is set out at Annex 2.

**4. Suggested Reasons for Decision**

- 4.1 Following the review of the Members' Allowances Scheme that took place during 2013 – 14, it was considered appropriate that the Allowances Scheme be further reviewed to reflect any changes in role, as the revised executive and committee arrangements that had been introduced by the Council, were further embedded.

5. **Alternative Options**

- 5.1 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**

- 6.1 The proposals result in no additional costs.

7. **Other Implications**

- 7.1 There are no equality, privacy, sustainability or crime and disorder issues associated with these proposals.

8. **Publicity**

- 8.1 The Regulations place duties on Councils in connection with publicising the recommendations made by their Independent Remuneration Panel. Accordingly, arrangements will be made for the Panel's report to be available for inspection.