

CABINET

4 DECEMBER 2013

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

**Report of the Chief Executive and Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate
Services**

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

3. Introduction/Background

- 3.1 The report of the Independent Remuneration Panel has been received and is attached as Appendix 1.
- 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 its 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 the operation of the revised executive and committee arrangements and the roles and responsibilities thereunder 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 Basic Allowance remains unchanged and that two changes be made in respect of Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) namely that an allowance of £4,184 be attached to the member role on the Fostering Panel and that the Deputy Mayor's allowance be increased to £5735. If accepted by the Council, the allowances will therefore be as follows:

OFFICE HOLDERS	£
Leader	37,667
Deputy Leader	25,111
Cabinet Secretary	25,111
Leader Majority Party in Opposition	12,556
Leader Minority Party in Opposition	6,277
Deputy Leader Majority Party in Opposition	8,369
Deputy Leader Minority Party in Opposition	4,184
Cabinet Member	20,716
Policy Member	12,556
Chairman of Scrutiny Committee	12,556
Chairman of Area Committees	10,350
Chair of Regulatory Committee	8,369
Chair of Licensing Committee	8,369
Vice Chairman of Area Committees	6,277
Chair of Planning and Highways Committee	6,277
Chairmen of Development Control Sub Committees	6,277
Vice Chairman of Scrutiny	6,277
Scrutiny Lead Member	5,179
Membership of Adoption Panel (to be paid to up to 2 Members)	4,184
Fostering Panel	4,184
Mayoral Allowance	17,205
Deputy Mayoral Allowance	5,735

- 3.4 A summary of the proposed Members' Allowances Scheme is also set out at Annex 2 to the Panel's report.

4. Suggested Reasons for Decision

- 4.1 Following the review of the Members' Allowances Scheme that took place during 2012, in the light of the revised executive and committee arrangements that had been introduced by the Council, it was considered appropriate that the Allowances Scheme be reviewed approximately one year later, by which time the new arrangements would be 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 an additional cost of £6,092 which can be contained within existing budget provision.

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 have been made for the Panel's report to be available for inspection.

Background Papers

Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

