

MEETING: 6TH NOVEMBER 2017

**SUBJECT: REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME FOR
FINANCIAL YEAR 2017/2018 AND 2018/2019**

**JOINT REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY AND
STRATEGIC FINANCE MANAGER**

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Authority uses the Independent Remuneration Panel appointed by the lead authority, Sunderland City Council, to make recommendations about the allowances to be paid to members and co-opted members. In March 2017, it was agreed that the terms of the Scheme should continue to apply, pending the outcome of a Panel review.

2 REVIEW OF ALLOWANCES

- 2.1 In undertaking its review, the Panel received written submissions from two members of the Authority and also met with the Chairman and the former Chief Fire Officer, Tom Capeling. Regard was also had to the level of allowances paid at the constituent authorities and comparable fire authorities. None of the schemes of the constituent authorities contain a special responsibility allowance for Members who sit on the Fire Authority. The current basic allowances paid by the constituent Authorities are Gateshead £10,550, Newcastle £8775, North Tyneside £9956, South Tyneside £7370, Sunderland £8369.
- 2.2 The Panel report is attached, from which Members will see that it has recommended an increase in the basic allowance from £1,848 per annum to £2500 and the Vice-Chair allowance from £6,399 to £10,000, together with some minor changes to the terms and conditions of the Scheme.
- 2.3 Members will also see that the Panel has recommended the backdating of the amendment to the scheme for 2017/2018, to the start of the financial year.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members are requested to consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel and

- 3.1.1. determine whether to amend the Allowances Scheme for 2017/2018 as recommended by the Panel
- 3.1.2. subject to agreeing to amend the Scheme, determine whether the amendments should be backdated to the 1st April 2017 and whether the provisions of the Scheme, as amended, should also apply as the adopted Scheme for the financial year 2018/2019
- 3.1.3. authorise the Deputy Clerk to make the changes to the terms and conditions of the Scheme referred to in the Panel's report and any other consequential amendments as are necessary, to achieve consistency and reflect any changes in legislation.

Background Papers

Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel