

# FULL COUNCIL

## 27 February 2019

### Independent Remuneration Panel Report – February 2019

**Responsible Officer:** Group Manager for Legal Services and Monitoring Officer, Kathryn Tebbey

**Reason for Report:** Following a review of the current Member Allowances Scheme, the report sets out the Independent Remuneration Panel's views for consideration by Council to set a Scheme of Allowances from 1 April 2019 until 31 March 2020.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- a) That the Basic Allowance to be paid to all Councillors remains at the current level of £5011.91 p.a. with any increases being linked to the staff pay award.
- b) That Special Responsibility Allowances be paid to the following Members at the unchanged levels indicated below:

Position	Weighting x basic	SRA
Leader of the Council	3.00	£15035.77
Deputy Leader	1.50	£7518.40
Cabinet Member	1.25	£6264.65
Scrutiny Committee Chair	1.25	£6264.65
PDG Chair	0.75	£3759.20
Audit Committee Chair	0.75	£3759.20
Planning Committee Chair	1.25	£6264.65
Licensing/Regulatory Chair	0.25	£1252.72
Standards Chair	0.25	£1252.72
Chairman of the Council	0.50	£2506.48

- c) To confirm that no Member should be entitled to claim more than **one** Special Responsibility Allowance.
- d) Carers' allowances be calculated on the current basis namely, the actual expenditure up to the national living wage of a person over 25.
- e) That travel allowances be linked to HMRC rates and calculated at the national levels indicated, currently:
  - 45p per mile for the first 10,000 miles
  - 25p per mile thereafter
  - 5p per mile per passenger carried (up to a maximum of 4 passengers payable to the driver)
  - 25p per mile for pushbikes
  - 24p per mile for motorcycles

NB: To be increased in line with HMRC rates from 1 April 2019 once known.

- f) That the subsistence allowances be linked to those of the staff, currently these are as follows:
- Breakfast - £7.50
  - Lunch - £10.35
  - Tea - £4.07
  - Dinner - £12.80

NB: To be increased in line with HMRC rates from 1 April 2019 once known.

- g) That all claims for travel and subsistence reimbursement be accompanied by an appropriate receipt.
- h) That an annual digital allowance of £150 continue to be paid to Members using digital devices only.
- i) That Members of the Authority are not entitled to pensions and therefore neither the basic allowance nor SRA be treated as an allowance in respect of which pensions are payable.

**Relationship to Corporate Plan:** None

**Financial Implications:** The recommendations do not propose any financial increase therefore there are no additional financial implications for the Council.

**Legal Implications:** The Local Authorities (Member's Allowances) Regulations 2003 require that an Independent Remuneration Panel consider Members Allowances and make their recommendations to Council.

**Risk Assessment:** Failure to follow the Members Allowances Regulations could leave the Council open to challenge.

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel are required to meet each year to recommend a Members Scheme of Allowances for the following financial year. Accordingly the Panel met on 14 November 2018 and considered a number of factors relating to the allowances paid to Members at Mid Devon District Council. These are set out within the accompanying report.

## **2.0 The Panel's Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Panel do not consider that there is evidence available to them to support a finding of a significant change in the workload of Members since the last time they met and therefore the Panel are not recommending any increases for the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 although they do recognise that

the Council is entering a period of change in terms of its focus on wider strategic collaboration and with significant development and regeneration proposals coming forward. Members might want to reflect on what evidence might assist the Panel in its deliberations since it will be undertaking a Fundamental Review of the Members Allowances scheme over the next twelve months with a view to recommending a revised scheme to commence on 1 April 2020.

- 2.2 The accompanying report from the IRP (Appendix 1) proposes nine recommendations for consideration by the Council (as set out above). A draft Scheme of Members' Allowances for 2019-2020 is attached at Appendix 2.

**Contact for more Information:** Kathryn Tebbey, Group Manager for Legal Services and Monitoring Officer or Sarah Lees 01884 234310, Member Services Officer.