

## Independent Remuneration Panel Report – April 2015

**Responsible Officer:** Head of Communities and Governance and Monitoring Officer

**Reason for Report:** The current Members Allowances Scheme expires when the District Council election takes place in May 2015, there is therefore a need to make recommendations for a scheme to be in place following the election.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To extend the current scheme with no changes for a period of 3 months from the day after the District Council election until 31 July 2015.
2. To implement an interim scheme (which may include some minor changes to the current scheme and which will be presented to full Council for consideration on 15 July 2015) for the period between 1 August 2015 and 31 July 2016.
3. That a fundamental review be undertaken of Mid Devon's Members Allowances Scheme between August 2015 and Spring 2016 with a report presenting the Panel's views and findings coming before Council in July 2016. This will recommend a scheme of allowances from August 2016 onwards.

**Relationship to Corporate Plan:** None

**Financial Implications:** Recommendation 1 will not have any financial implications. However, it is likely that there will be cost implications associated with recommendations 2 and 3 and these will be outlined in future reports brought forward to Council by the Independent Remuneration Panel

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

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

### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The last review of Members Allowances took place in 2011, with the report from the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) being presented to Council on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2012. The scheme presented, and approved, at that time took the scheme up to the elections in May 2015.
- 1.2 Since the last scheme the Council has recruited to the IRP with the current panel consisting of 4 new panellists and 1 remaining panellist. The Panel have had training and are starting to review the Members Allowances Scheme.

- 1.3 The accompanying report from the IRP (Appendix 1) proposes three recommendations. The first is to continue with the current scheme for a period of three months until the end of July 2015.
- 1.4 An interim report from the IRP (which may include some minor changes to the current scheme) will be presented to the Council for consideration on the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2015 and it is recommended that this will cover the period of 1 August 2015 and 31 July 2016.
- 1.5 The final recommendation is that a fundamental review of Members Allowances is undertaken between August 2015 and spring 2016 to enable new Members to be involved in the review following the election. It is recommended that a report presenting the Panel's views and findings coming before Council in July 2016. This will recommend a scheme of allowances from August 2016 onwards.

**Contact for more Information:** Amy Tregellas 01884 234246, Monitoring Officer or Sarah Lees 01884 234310, Member Services Officer

**Circulation of the Report:**